MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 APRIL 1982

Lebanon

Security Situation -- "Violent and painful" clashes occurred in the southern suburbs and some other areas of Beirut, according to Beirut radio. Voice of Lebanon radio identified the contending parties as the Shi'ite Amal movement on the one hand and the Palestinians, joint forces and communists on the other. Unofficial sources cited by Beirut radio said 25 persons were killed and scores of others were wounded; other unofficial sources reported 13 dead and 27 wounded as well as great material damage. The Voice of Lebanon claimed that Palestinian camps in western Beirut indiscriminately shelled the southern suburbs.

Ten persons were killed and scores of others wounded during clashes in the Az-Zahrani and An-Nabatiaayah Districts of southern Lebanon, according to estimates cited by the Voice of Lebanon. A cease-fire was to go into effect in Beirut and the south at 0600 GMT on 15 April, Beirut radio reported.

Shi'ite Statement, Palestinian Reply -- With concentrated artillery and rocket bombardments, the joint forces "seized" several villages and displaced the inhabitants of others, the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council charged in a statement broadcast by the Voice of Lebanon. The statement asked all those in the Palestinian resistance and the National Movement responsible for this "aggression" to stop the shelling and to withdraw their gunmen and weapons from the villages. Earlier, Lebanese Forces Commander Bashir al-Jumayyil offered to place "all our social and material potential" at the Shi'ite Council's disposal, according to the radio.

The council's statement "came as a surprise to us because it ignores the role which the Palestinian resistance is playing to end these clashes," a Palestinian Revolution Command statement broadcast by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio proclaimed. In a conversation with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat affirmed that the Palestinian resistance was not involved in the clashes and was trying to contain them, Beirut radio reported.

A prominent Amal leader has threatened to begin bombarding settlements in northern Israel if the PLO does not stop escalating clashes between Amal and its Iraqi-backed rivals, the Jerusalem POST reported.

Butrus, Syrian Leaders' Statements -- After a 2-hour meeting in Shtawrah, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus and visiting Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam made statements to correspondents broadcast by Beirut radio. There is coordination between Syria and Lebanon and we will continue on all levels to "prevent an aggression and to confront the Israeli danger and ambition," Butrus said. We in Syria, Lebanon and Palestine must resist the aggression directly and confront it on behalf of the Arab nation, Khaddam stated. Any attack on Lebanon will be faced by Syria, Syrian Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm stressed in an interview with Paris radio reported by Damascus television.

Iraqi-Syrian Relations

Syria has confiscated 200,000 tons of oil sold by Iraq and has ordered the buyers' tankers waiting to load the oil to leave Syrian territorial waters, Iraqi Oil Minister Tayih 'Abd al-Karim revealed in a statement reported by INA. As a result of Syrian measures, Lebanon has been deprived of its main source of crude oil and Syria and Lebanon have lost over $150 million in fees paid each year, Al-Karim continued. Immediately after the Syrian foreign minister's recent return from Iran, Syria commissioned four tankers to bring Iranian oil to Syria. Syrian measures are designed to increase the "Persian enemy's" oil exports at the expense of Iraqi oil, which is similar in quality, the minister added.

When the Syrian people, under the National Alliance for the Liberation of Syria, raise the slogan of military struggle, they will find all the support they need from the Iraqi people, Iraqi Popular Army Commander in Chief Taha Yasin Ramadan told a rally reported by INA.

The masses of the people and army in Iraq will try "the hangman Saddam Husayn" at the appropriate time, Damascus radio predicted. The countdown for the downfall of the "executioner's regime" in Iraq has begun, AL-BA'TH wrote in an editorial reported by SANA.

Israel

Territories, East Jerusalem Situation -- The commercial strike and riots protesting the Temple Mount incident continued in east Jerusalem and the territories, Jerusalem radio reported. The Military Government has closed schools in the territories until 17 April, the radio said. The east Jerusalem chairman of the Committee for the Defense of the Land was "martyred" by occupation soldiers who beat him with rifles and batons, according to the Voice of Palestine.

Stoessel Visit -- U.S. Under Secretary of State Walter Stoessel arrived on 14 April and met with Prime Minister Menahem Begin on 15 April, Jerusalem radio reported. After the meeting Stoessel expressed confidence that the disputes between Israel and Egypt will be resolved, the radio said.

Egypt

Position on Peace Process -- Egypt will underline its "firm position" in talks with Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, MENA reported. Egypt will continue to adhere to the peace process and the Camp David accords, will not yield even an inch of Egyptian territory as defined by the 1906 line and will adhere to the method of settling differences set forth in Article VII of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, MENA explained.

Execution of As-Sadat Assassins -- The five persons convicted of assassinating the late President Anwar as-Sadat were executed on 15 April, less than 24 hours after President Husni Mubarak rejected their appeals for a retrial, AFP reported. So far monitored Egyptian media have not reported either the appeal rejection or the execution.

Iran

On 11 April security forces arrested 25 armed counterrevolutionaries and killed at least 25 others in Bukan District, Tehran radio reported. Nine prominent members of the Cherikha-ye Feda'i-ye Khalq's minority faction and the Komeleh organization have been captured, Tehran radio announced on 13 April. They had been actively involved in clashes in Kordestan and in operations carried out in the northern forests, the radio added. About 90 members of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) were killed or wounded and 33 arrested on 12 April, AFP reported citing the 14 April issue of JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI. Another 14 dissidents were killed near Sanandaj on 13 April in clashes between revolution guards and "factions paid by the United States and members of the KDP," the paper said, adding that two revolution guards were also killed in the fighting. Meanwhile, Mojahedin-e Khalq's Paris office announced that 13,000 people have been executed in Iran in the last 9 months, AFP reported.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PLO ISSUES STATEMENT ON TEMPLE MOUNT INCIDENT

NC141854 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1640 GMT 14 Apr 82

[14 April statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee]

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee has continued its meetings and discussed the practical steps to develop and bolster our people's valiant uprising inside the occupied homeland as well as the responsibilities that are required at the Arab, Islamic and international levels in the wake of the crime committed by the Zionist enemy authorities against the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the opening of gunfire on the unarmed masses. The PLO Executive Committee has reached the following decisions:

1. To provide all forms of political and material support to our people and all the national institutions in the occupied homeland in order to buttress the general strike and enable our masses to continue their confrontation of the Zionist crimes and racist fascist acts of repression and terrorism.

2. To embark on the widest international move to condemn the Zionist aggression against the holy mosque, the holy rock [The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem] and Al-Aqsa Mosque and against the masses of our people in all our occupied homeland. In this connection, the PLO Executive Committee calls for convening an emergency session of the Islamic Conference Organization at the highest level. The Executive Committee will also act on the need for the UN Security Council to adopt a firm decision against the Zionist crime and for the UN General Assembly to convene in an emergency session following the failure of the Security Council at its previous meeting to reach a resolution on the dismissal of some mayors because of the U.S. veto.

3. To call on all the states of the world, the international blocs and the responsible religious authorities to adopt a clear stand on the racist crimes that have been committed against the believing masses, the religious sanctuaries and the Muslim and Christian men of religion in Jerusalem.

4. It is important that the popular moves should continue at the Arab and international levels in cooperation with all the Arab and international institutions, organizations and forces to mobilize public opinion on the widest scale against the racist Zionist onslaught on our people and sanctuaries.

5. To work for turning the Day of the Palestinian Detainee on 17 April into a day of international solidarity with the thousands of detainees and prisoners in the enemy's prisons and to support their great steadfastness against the Zionist terrorism and to call on all the Arab and international legal organizations as well as world public opinion to express their denunciation and condemnation of the criminal Zionist measures which are manifested in subjecting our people to mass intimidation, murder, detention and punishment.

6. To address greetings and appreciation to all the countries and forces which participated in the general strike on Wednesday [14 April] in denunciation of the Al-Aqsa crime in response to the appeal made by His Majesty King Khalid, chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization, and in solidarity with our people's valiant uprising; and to call for continued political and popular moves in the same direction, for the need to exert Arab pressure on all international forces which are maintaining silence or which are supporting the Zionist enemy, and for the importance of using all Arab resources on all levels to ensure the widest international support and to isolate the Zionist enemy and the imperialist forces which back him.

The PLO Executive Committee, while it salutes the revolution of our great people who are valiantly confronting the enemy's army and the racist colonialist settlers who are armed to the teeth, emphasizes that the continuation of our people's steadfastness and unity in their total national uprising, which extends from Galilee, the triangle and Negev to Gaza, Jerusalem, the Golan and the West Bank, will frustrate the enemy's schemes to impose autonomy and civil administration and to continue his occupation of our sacred homeland.

Greetings to all the martyrs and to all the wounded. The world is today greeting with appreciation our people -- men, women and children -- who have taught the enemy a lesson in steadfastness and in adherence to the homeland and the rights of the people.

The PLO Executive Committee pledges our people will continue to march on the path of the struggle, using all resources, until our will to return, to determine our own fate and to establish our independent state on our national soil triumphs.

The PLO Executive Committee also addresses a greeting of appreciation to the fighters in the south [southern Lebanon] for their steadfastness in the face of the Zionist enemy's concentrations and threats and for their insistence on confronting the challenge strongly and solidly in order to protect our revolution and the masses of our Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. Our's is a revolution until victory.

ARABS REQUEST RED CROSS PROBE OF W. BANK EVENTS

NC141947 Paris AFP in English 1923 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Geneva, 14 Apr (AFP) -- The Arab League's Swiss office and Arab countries accredited at United Nations Headquarters here today asked the International Red Cross to investigate the situation in Jerusalem and the occupied territories following recent violence there.

They sent a telegram to International Red Cross President Alexander Hay. The group of Arabic UN nations, presided over this month by Syrian Ambassador Adib Dawudi, said it had also sent a telegram to International Labour Office Director-General Francis Blanchard, to ask his organization to investigate conditions for Arab workers on the West Bank.

The group sent a third telegram to the World Council of Churches, saying that such events as Sunday's shooting around the Omar Mosque in Jerusalem could also occur in Non-Islamic holy sites.

VOP COMMENTS ON EGYPTIAN EXECUTIONS 15 APR

NC151227 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] The Egyptian regime this morning executed hero Khalid al-Islambuli and his four comrades in Cairo. The Arab nation has thus lost one of its dearest children as well as men who executed the people's -- the Egyptian people's -- sentence passed against Anwar as-Sadat who betrayed Egypt, the Arab nation, and the Palestinian issue.

The executions took place at the same time Arab Cairo received Zionist General Sharon -- the terrorist and murderer, killer of Jabalyah's babies, Palestine's babies, the babies of Bahr al-Baqar and workers of Hulwan.

Glory to martyr Khalid al-Islambuli and his hero comrades. Long live Arab Egypt and long live Arab Palestine.

VOP SCORES BBC, WESTERN MEDIA WEST BANK COVERAGE

NC241642 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1520 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Station commentary: "The Israeli Government Policy of Indiscriminately Gunning Down Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza and Syrians in the Golan Heights"]

[Text] Since the institution of the civil administration policy on November 1, 1981 in the West Bank, the Zionist occupation authorities have instructed the military troops in the occupied territories to shoot freely at Palestinians demonstrating against the occupation. Yesterday, the victim of the free-fire policy was an 8-year-old boy in the Gaza camp of Jabalya. Twenty-two other Palestinians were wounded by gunfire in the Gaza yesterday, and most of them were under 15 years old.

The official Israeli propagandists have been attempting to cover up the fact of the free-fire policy which, by our calculations, has resulted in the death and wounding of well over 200 people just in the past month, not only in the West Bank and Gaza but also in the Golan as well where the Syrians have uniquely engaged in a pacifist general strike to protest the Zionist annexation. Yesterday's murder of an 8-year-old boy was such a barbaric indicator of the nature of the Israeli free-fire policy that Israeli military officials felt compelled to absolve themselves of the responsibility of this particular death.

Israeli military authorities stated to the Zionist as well as foreign media that the reason for the boy's death was not the fact that he was shot in the stomach by an Israeli soldier, but supposedly because Palestinian crowds blocked an ambulance carrying the boy to the hospital. In other words, the Palestinians themselves are responsible for their own deaths. This interpretation of events was loyally repeated by the BBC in its news broadcast last night as well as by news agencies today, such as the ASSOCIATED PRESS, as one example. The Western media has chosen to regurgitate this preposterous claim by the Israeli military authorities and have totally ignored the fact that besides the death of the 8-year-old boy yesterday, 26 children from Nusayrat camp in the Gaza were admitted to the Gaza hospital with gunshot wounds. Their ages ranged between 6 and 16 years.

This coverup of the barbarity of the Israeli policy is not new, nor is its repetition by the Western media. The first martyr to fall in the current wave of demonstrations in the Gaza was Mahmud Abu Nahlah, a 16-year-old. He was shot in the chest in Rafah in December during the general strike in the Gaza to protest the imposition of the civil administration. At the time, the Jerusalem POST tried to explain away the murder in its issue of December 9. The POST wrote this preposterous interpretation of the events: "The soldiers, following standing orders, warned they were going to shoot in the air but the demonstrators did not back away. It was most probably the crush of the crowd and not a deliberate move by the soldiers that lowered rifle barrels from the 60 degree angle of warning fire and caused the bullets to strike the youth."

The Western press has uncharacteristically exposed the massacres by rightwing death squads assisted by the military juntas in El Salvador and Guatemala. The Western press in this instant has forthrightly challenged the Reagan administration's contention that the massacres were a result of the Salvadoran and Guatemalan liberation forces -- again the contention that the masses of popular forces are responsible for their own deaths.

No such insight has leaked through the reportage on the West Bank and Gaza, where the magnitude of the daily Palestinian death toll is reaching Salvadoran and Guatemalan proportions. Indeed, the Zionist settlers in the West Bank have also gruesomely mimicked their fascist counterparts in Latin America in organizing death squads to randomly execute Palestinian young people in the West Bank.

As you heard in today's news, the mutilated body of a new victim of the settlers' death squad has been discovered in the Nabulus area. There have been at least four similar execution-style murders in the West Bank in the past month. This racist belittlement by the Zionists and Western press of the lives of the Palestinians will not, however, deter the meaning of a life in freedom to the Palestinian people themselves. The Palestinian people will continue to struggle to eliminate the life of brutality which comes with the Zionist occupation.

CHEDLI KLIBI INTERVIEW ON FRENCH MIDEAST POLICY

PM140845 Paris LE MATIN in French 26 Mar 82 p 11

[Richard Liscia interview with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi in Tunis: "The West Bank: The Riots Reflect the Rejection of Camp David" -- date not given]

[Text] LE MATIN: The events on the West Bank are alarming. What is the Arab League's attitude to those events and how does it intend to react?

Chedli Klibi: Those events are indeed dramatic. They affect a number of Palestinians, and the extortion and violence which they are suffering should arouse great revulsion from other peoples. I have just learned of some reactions which are very moderate and weak, and I can imagine the general outcry there would have been if, for instance, one or two members of the Israeli population in Tel Aviv or Haifa had been killed. I hope that our friends in Europe and America are more sensitive to this truly human tragedy.

But the second aspect of these events is political. The process in which people are trying to involve this region, the West Bank and Gaza, consists of keeping those territories under the Israeli yoke forever. The process is spurned and rejected by the entire population, not just by the PLO. The PLO speaks on the Palestinian people's behalf; it is the living conscience of that people living in diaspora, in exile, and under Israeli domination. It is the organization which speaks on their behalf. Incidents have been going on for several days despite exceptionally severe measures. That shows that the "Camp David" solution is rejected by all Palestinians.

The magnificent appeal launched by President Mitterrand in Mexico was addressed first to Latin America but also to all other peoples fighting for freedom and the right to live; that is what I would like the French people to feel.

LE MATIN: There is apparently an obstacle for the Israelis: the PLO charter. Do you think it is possible to move in a direction which preserves the Israelis' rights?

Chedli Klibi: People talk to us about that charter too much. It is not just a question of the charter: Israel must also accept the Palestinian entity. If Israel is prepared to recognize the Palestinian people's existence, we will change the charter and many other things.

But Mr Begin or other Israeli leaders, be they from the Labor Party or another party, must state clearly: There is a Palestinian people, there is an Israeli entity and we are prepared to give it the worthy fate it deserves. In that case everything can change.

LE MATIN: Do you think that President Mitterrand's visit to Israel changed the Israelis' attitude somewhat?

Chedli Klibi: I hope so but I am not overoptimistic. You saw that Begin's reply was a barren reply of refusal, incomprehension and blindness to some noble sentiments in President Mitterrand's speech. Neither Begin nor even Mr Peres seemed to understand and I am sure that President Mitterrand came back disappointed after encountering the Israeli lack of understanding.

LE MATIN: But Mr Mitterrand did not say that he was disappointed.

Chedli Klibi: I am sure that he was.

LE MATIN: He said that he has adopted the same tone toward all sides.

Chedli Klibi: We regretted that visit as soon as it was announced because it came immediately after the annexation of the Golan Heights and constituted a kind of support and approval, however indirect and implicit, for that annexation. When the final decision was taken I told the journalists who accompanied Mr Mauroy to Tunisia that it was necessary to make the best of it. I expressed the hope that President Mitterrand would say the things we expected him to say. He did indeed say them. In our view the most important thing is the right of all peoples in the region to existence.

But the right to exist does not only concern the Israelis, it concerns all other peoples who must have their say and have sovereignty, especially including the people directly concerned: the Palestinian people. President Mitterrand also said some essential things for the Palestinian people. He said: "That people, like you, have the right to a homeland and a state." However, those essential truths were accompanied by assertions which call for some explanations and clarifications.

I will begin with a point relating to the borders. In his speech President Mitterrand seemed to give his agreement to that border problem being settled between the two sides after a withdrawal from the occupied territories in accordance with Security Council resolution 242. The border problem cannot be posed in that way. France itself had given its agreement to the withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967 being complete. There can now be no question of going back on that decision and saying to Israel: Yes, you can negotiate your borders with the competent authorities at your convenience. That again opens the door to Israel's expansionist policy and even gives it legitimacy.

The second serious point which struck us was the Palestinian people's right to struggle. President Mitterrand said that the struggle should stop pending a continuation of dialogue. That is a really strange procedure and has never been followed in any other case. How can struggling people be asked to lay down their arms and wait on the good will of the Israeli state?

That really is not acceptable. I do not think, that as the great resistance fighter he was, Mr Mitterrand would have agreed to such a suggestion when he was fighting for France's liberation.

The third and final point is that, on the subject of the method of settlement, President Mitterrand said: Straighten things out together; the two sides involved must talk and find a solution. I do not think that is possible. If a bilateral solution with Israel was possible it would have been found. Israel does not want peace, and does not want negotiations which would lead to a Palestinian state. Israel rejects peace and negotiations and is expanding daily at its neighbors' expense and it is going to expand at the Palestinian people's expense since there is now talk of annexing the West Bank and Gaza.

We expect a more dynamic policy from France. President Mitterrand, who seems to be going back to Gaullist traditions, should assert France's role. France cannot merely say: I am neither an arbiter nor a mediator and I will leave things to straighten themselves out. Does France now agree to the world's affairs being settled solely by the two powers? I do not think so.

President Mitterrand's last visit to the United States shows that his action can bend U.S. policy, be it in the economic, financial or political sphere.

LE MATIN: Do you think there is any possibility of reactivating the Fahd plan, despite the failure of the Fes summit conference?

CHEDLI KLIBI: I will answer that question on two levels. The first is that Fes is not lost; the commentaries made both in the West and in our countries missed their target. That conference did not end in deadlock, it merely adopted a new procedure which rather disorientated the observers because they were not used to such methods being adopted by the Arabs.

It was observed that no progress could be made on certain important points; it was decided to consider the matter for a time and continue the dialogue by other means. That is a procedure which is often adopted by the Europeans. So I think we can envisage the resumption of that conference in the near future.

The second level is the role which you Europeans should play. Your role cannot be limited to simply following this affair as spectators. You can help in a solution, and so can America, because some countries are hesitating about taking the gamble. If we accept the Fahd plan, they ask, who can say that plan will have a chance of succeeding? We are assured that Begin and his government will reject that plan completely. That is the argument used by some Arab countries.

This brings us to the role of Europe and America, which represent a major section of world opinion, the USSR and the socialist countries having expressed positive opinions of this plan. You Europeans can return to the Venice spirit. In the light of the principles spelled out in the Venice declaration you can define a European initiative which would include the main points of the Fahd plan. That could enlighten our American friends who still do not seem to be posing the fundamental and essential aspects of the problems since they still do not realize the blind alley to which Camp David has led. That would really be a major success for Europe.

LE MATIN: There is one problem: Europe does not want to take any more initiative.

Chedli Klibi: I regret that President Mitterrand said some things which suggest that he is against the Venice declaration. I have seen him twice and was very happy to talk with him. Those two meetings were very warm and meaningful and enabled us to sound out the situation to some extent. I told the president that France should not abandon all initiative. I put forward a number of arguments to support the idea, and although the president did not give me his agreement he did not seem hostile to a reexamination of France's position. I hope that France will change and that President Mitterrand will feel that there is no other solution.

GULF AFFAIRS

PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY DAY MARKED IN GULF

GF141422 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0710 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Manama, 14 Apr (WAKH) -- The Arabian Gulf states marked today, 14 April, with practical measures to stress their solidarity with the struggle of the Arab Palestinian people and to strongly denounce the Zionist authority's aggression against the sacredness of Al-Aqsa Mosque. This solidarity was expressed by declaring today a general holiday in all official and public departments, stopping all telephone and telecommunications links and air traffic to and from the region's airports, as well as dedication of the press to special activities to publicize the struggle of the Arab people in the West Bank.

These measures came in response to the call by the chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization, King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, to denounce what happened when a Zionist opened fire with an automatic rifle on worshippers in Al-Aqsa Mosque's yard, killing or wounding scores of Muslims. This Zionist aggression against one of the Islamic shrines resulted in an overwhelming revolution in Jerusalem and the other towns and villages in the occupied West Bank. There have been many clashes with Zionist occupation soldiers. As a result of this the Supreme Muslim Council in Jerusalem called for a 1-week general strike in the occupied territories.

This day records the Islamic states' strong denunciation of Israel's crimes, particularly the crime in dishonoring the holy shrines. Many Arab and Islamic states have responded to King Khalid's appeal.

The signs of this response to the call to demonstrate solidarity with the Palestinian people in Kuwait was represented by the decision of local newspapers not to publish tomorrow, Thursday. The KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY (KUNA) decided to stop transmission today. The [Kuwait] television and radio decided to regard today the day of Jerusalem and they dedicated their programs to this occasion from signon to signoff. A number of series, programs and interviews on the Islamic shrines will be carried by both media.

'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, Kuwaiti minister of state for Cabinet affairs, praised the response of public institutions and citizens in stopping work today in solidarity with the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and in denunciation of the Israeli aggression against the Islamic shrines. He said the stoppage in official and private institutions is aimed at demonstrating the citizens' feelings of solidarity with their brothers in the occupied territories.

Bahrain has cut off all communications with area countries. Communications with the rest of the world are possible only from Bahrain.

Gulf Air, which is owned by four Gulf countries -- Bahrain, the UAE, Qatar and Oman -- has stopped all flights today and canceled 36 regional and 5 international flights. Salman, Manama and Al-Muharraq ports were also closed to shipping as of midnight last night. Ships will have to wait for 24 hours before entering the ports. The port for shipping oil in Sitra and the port of the Arab shipbuilding and repair yard company were also closed.

All official departments and most shops were closed. The normally bustling commercial quarter was almost empty. All banks operating in Manama were also closed in response to the call for solidarity with the Palestinian people.

In Qatar, the call made by King Khalid ibn Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi monarch and current chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization, elicited a positive response from all official and semiofficial quarters which proclaimed their solidarity with the Palestinian people by declaring a work stoppage. Qatari radio and television carried programs depicting the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories as well as patriotic songs. QNA halted all transmission today from 0600 to 1800.

The expression of solidarity with the Palestinian people in the occupied territories was clearly demonstrated in Saudi Arabia, the source of this Islamic call, where the activities of all official and semiofficial departments and the public and private sectors came to a halt while the radio and television sought to champion justice and called for an end to iniquity as a contribution to Arab and Islamic unity.

Rallies, marches and mass metings were held throughout Iraq today in solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle against Israeli occupation. Senior Iraqi officials who took part in these rallies and meetings delivered speeches in which they emphasized the "common stand of destiny between Iraq and the Palestinian revolution as embodied by the Palestinian Arab people's uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip." The speakers called for "Arab and Muslim unity" to protect Al-Aqsa Mosque and to define a firm and united stand against the Zionist invaders. The speakers also condemned the Iranian stand in persisting in the aggression against Iraq and the refusal to recognize Iraq's national rights and asserted that such a stand "constitutes a form of the real support which Iran extends to the Zionist entity against the Arab nation."

Gulf Dailies on Solidarity Day

GF150720 Doha QNA in Arabic 1835 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Doha, 14 Apr (QNA) -- Today's Gulf newspapers praise the great response to the call of His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization, for a general strike today in the Islamic states in solidarity with the Palestinian people and denouncing the barbarian murder and massacre committed by the Zionist enemy in Al-Aqsa on Sunday. The papers consider this response evidence of Islamic solidarity and of the ability of the Islamic states to take concerted and effective action to confront the Israeli aggression.

In Qatar the newspaper AL-'ARAB says that if this day illustrated Islamic wrath and denunciation of this Zionist crime against the first of the two kiblahs and the third holy place [Jerusalem], it also illustrates genuine Islamic cohesion, reflects the solid grounds of Islamic relations and reaffirms that the entire Islamic nation has been hurt.

The newspaper adds that this is a day of cohesion with the Palestinian people, who are being subjected to barbarous Zionist attacks and massacres. However, they are strong people, stronger than challenges and stronger than all annihilation plans with which the Zionist entity is trying to liquidate them. The newspaper concludes by saying that on the day of the Islamic strike we must change this stand into continuous cohesion and dedication to the Palestinian cause, the major cause of the Arabs and Muslims.

AR-RAYAH praises the strong and quick response to the call of His Majesty King Khalid for a strike in solidarity with the Palestinian people. The newspaper says some people did not believe this could happen and could not imagine that the Islamic nation could take this stance after hope was lost. The newspaper describes those people as desperate and of weak faith. They work for nothing but their own interest by running after money and mundane joys.

The newspaper says the leaders and peoples who answered the call of his majesty the Saudi king believe that this nation still has goodness and hope running in its veins and knows when to revolt and stand as one man. The newspaper concludes by saluting all those who responded to the call today and everyone who nurtured hope with faith. The newspaper salutes everyone who proved that faith is still running in their blood. It says this nation is capable of doing the impossible once it upholds the banner of righteousness, the banner of Islam.

The newspaper says the stand of Muslims today is auspicious because it is the beginning of the hard and long way to the restoration of Jerusalem and right and Islamic revival that will bear blessed fruit for Muslims and all peoples of the world.

In Saudi Arabia the newspaper AL-JAZIRAH says the new practical initiative of His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to call a general strike in the Islamic countries affirms that Saudi Arabia is a partner in the struggle for the present, future and fate of the Muslim Palestinian people who are being exposed to repression, suppression, oppression and tyranny and who are defending with their blood Al-Aqsa Mosque, a great sanctuary for all Muslims of the world.

The newspaper AL-YAWM calls for making the day of solidarity with the Palestinian people a genuine starting point to approach the source [or trouble] and mobilize human and material resources in all political and economic directions, even for armed jihad, which is an urgent need now.

The newspaper says the Islamic states, represented by their leaders and peoples, must translate their wrath at the Zionist massacre of worshippers in Al-Aqsa into strong, consolidated Islamic action that will shake the world and prepare the gigantic economic, human, political and military facilities that these states possess, thus directing these facilities against the camps of our enemies in order to demolish their fortresses and lay them bare before the international conscience.

AR-RIYADH says the recent stand of his majesty the Saudi king on the Zionist aggression aganist Al-Aqsa Mosque is considered to be a historic extension and continuation of the basic Saudi stand on this and other causes of the Islamic and Arab nations. The newspaper affirms that Saudi Arabia is continuing along its course and will continue to translate its unwavering stand into actions and deeds.

AN-NADWAH says that the response of the Arab and Islamic world to the call for solidarity with the Palestinian people and the shutdown of all departments and facilities are considered to be a great triumph for this struggling people. The newspaper expresses hope that this Arab and Islamic cause will be illustrated by tangible practical measures for the support of the strugglers' steadfastness in Palestine in confronting the most tyrannical hatred and terrorism. The Endlish-language newspaper GULF TIMES says Arabs and Muslims all over the world responded in a great way to the call for solidarity with the Palestinian people and for denunciation of the unprecented obnoxious crime against Al-Aqsa Mosque. The newspaper adds that this obnoxious crime has made it clear to the whole world that the main objective of the Zionist enemy is the extermination of the Arab and Islamic nation and its sanctuaries. The newspaper says the response to the strike and solidarity call should be considered the beginning and not the end. It should be an alarm to all those who are skeptical of Arab and Islamic ability and a beginning to declare the holy jihad which will lead to the victory of righteousness.

The newspaper adds that this day will be a test for the West in distinguishing between enemies and friends. Whoever stands up for the enemy of the Arabs and Muslims is an enemy of the Arabs and Muslims -- especially when the whole world is aware that the Arabs are right and that the Zionists are aggressors.

AL-MADINAH says that the entire world will realize the strength and cohesion of Muslims and that the Muslims' sanctuaries and holy places are difficult to profane. The Muslims' enemies will feel the importance of the Islamic world, its weight and impact on international events. The newspaper adds that His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, by taking this initiative, has made a new start which is very positive and has political impact that could not be duplicated even by concerted action.

'UKAZ says that the call of His Majesty King Khalid for a general strike in solidarity with the Palestinian people illustrates the Islamic nation's rejection of the terrorist Zionist practices against Arab nationals inside the occupied territory and plans which are aimed at the Judaization of land and encroachment upon sanctuaries and holy places in Jerusalem. The newspaper adds that the quick Arab-Islamic response to the Saudi monarch's call reflects the extent of Muslim concern for these sanctuaries which the occupation authorities are trying to deface. Concluding its editorial, the newspaper demands that the Islamic nation make a quick search for ways to halt Israeli recklessness and foul play through effective Islamic solidarity.

The newspaper AL-BILAD says the appeal of His Majesty King Khalid to public opinion and international conscience to stand up for the rights of the Palestinians has cast light on the violation of norms, laws, values and principles inside occupied Palestine. The newspaper adds that when King Khalid uttered the cry of righteousness it was meant to reach mankind everywhere and awaken human conscience to confront those who ruin history, falsify facts, and try to exterminate and banish an entire people.

In Bahrain AKHBAR AL-KHALIF says the symbolic support by Arab and Islamic countries for the revolution of the heroes of the occupied territory should be changed into effective support in the form of more fighters and more effective weapons aimed at the heart of aggression and persecution. The newspaper calls on the Arab countries to adopt a decisive stand on the United States, which supports Zionism, affirming that the U.S. support for the Zionist entity stands behind the entity's continuous aggression against the Arab nation.

BAHRAIN

STATE PARTICIPATES IN PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY DAY

GF141620 Manama Domestic Service in ARabic 1530 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] The State of Bahrain today joined its sister Arab and Muslim countries in proclaiming solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle and protests against the arbitrary Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories, the latest of which was the shooting at worshippers praying inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque. This expression of solidarity was in response to the call issued by King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia in his capacity as chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization.

Practical measures were taken in Arab and Muslim countries today in solidarity with the Palestinian people's struggle. This solidarity was expressed by the proclamation of a public holiday today in all official and public institutions, the closure of airports and the severance of telecommunications.

PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS, MEETS WITH AMIR

GF131716 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] The amir, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifah, received in Ar-Rifa' Palace at 1500 today Salim Salih Muhammad, PDRY foreign affairs minister, who paid a courtesy call on the occasion of his visit to Bahrain. Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah was also present.

WAKH reported a statement by the PDRY foreign affairs minister in which he said that he had the honor to meet the amir and to convey a written measage from 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the Presidium of the PDRY Supreme People's Council to his highness on the latest developments in the region and bilateral relations. Salim Salih Muhammad said he reviewed with his highness the amir the latest developments on both the Arab and international levels. He noted that he sensed from the amir full understanding of the issues discussed. He said the amir asked him to convey a reply to 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

In conclusion, the PDRY foreign affairs minister said he held talks with Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah. He said that these talks were positive and fruitful and they discussed numerous issues of mutual interest, particulary issues connected with Arabian Gulf affairs, the Iraqi-Iranian war, the Palestinian question, the escalaction of the Palestinian people's struggle in the occupied Arab territories and the importance of supporting the struggle that is being waged by the Palestinian resistance both inside and outside occupied Palestine.

KUWAIT

STATE OBSERVES SOLIDARITY DAY WITH PALESTINIANS

LD141900 Kuwait KUNA in English 1812 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Apr (KUNA) -- Work stoppage was implemented here Wednesday in all government (?sectors) in solidarity with the Palestinian upsurge in the occupied Arab countries following the Al-Aqsa Mosque crime when a fanatic Jew opened fire in the mosque at Arab worshippers, killing two and wounding several others.

The private sector also responded to the decision of the Cabinet in this respect and all shops, markets and movies closed down all day today.

The stoppage included all in and out telecommunications and flights from and to Kuwait in demonstration of support. The seven daily newspapers including two English-language ones in Kuwait will be suspended for Thursday only.

Meanwhile, Radio Kuwait devoted all programs today to highlight the popular uprising in the West Bank and Gaza and to hail the heroic struggle the Palestinian people there are waging in the face of the Israeli occupation authorities in defense of their legitimate rights. The radio also urged all the Arab nation and the Islamic world to expand the scope of support to the Palestinians. Other programs were devoted to review the Palestinian heritage and traditions.

The Kuwait television started transmission at 2 o'clock p.m. with a series of programs depicting the relentless struggle of the Palestinian people against the Israeli atrocities.

The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) suspended till six o'clock pm today its transmission of local and foreign services in both Arabic and English languages.

OFFICIAL 'REGRETS' IRAQI-SYRIAN TENSION

GF141500 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 12 Apr 82 p 2

[Text] Kuwait has expressed regret over the increase of tension in Iraqi-Syrian relations.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said yesterday, "We -- with most regret -- are hearing about an increase in this tension in the relations between two neighboring fraternal countries who have common goals and other fateful problems, just like all Arabs." "The Arabs must devote themselves to their fateful causes," he added.

Mr Husayn expressed the hope that reason and wisdom will prevail in the relations between the two fraternal countries to enable them to eliminate the tension so that all Arabs can concentrate on their main causes.

On whether there are tangible results in the efforts to stop the Iraqi-Iranian war, he said: "Despite many attempts from various sides, no tangible results have so far been achieved."

He said: "The insistence of the Islamic nonaligned countries and the United Nations and other volunteers on achieving an end to the war will possibly help to find a formula to halt the war raging between the two countries." He affirmed that continued efforts are required and this is an indication that there is hope that results will be achieved.

QATAR

GENERAL STRIKE MARKS PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY DAY

GF141627 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Qatar joined its Islamic sister countries in the general strike that swept the Islamic world today in solidarity with the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories in their popular uprising against the occupation authorities and in denunciation of the treacherous Zionist attack against the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque and Muslim worshippers.

In response to the amiri decree which his highness the amir, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, issued yesterday, all ministries, government and private establishments, schools and teaching institutions were closed today. Air traffic and telecommunications services were also halted. Qatari radio and television broadcast special programs on the Arab struggle against the Zionist enemy and his expansionist terrorist plots. Qatari papers devoted their pages to salutation of the heroic uprising in the occupied Arab territories. In their editorials today, they affirmed the support of the entire Islamic nation for the Palestinian struggle movement against the Zionist usurper and his supporters.

SAUDI ARABIA

KINGDOM OBSERVES PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY DAY

LD142046 Riyadh SPA in English 1915 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Riyadh, 14 Apr (SPA) -- Millions of people in Saudi Arabia and other Islamic countries today observed an unprecedented stoppage of work in government departments and private business in response to a call by King Khalid in support of Palestinians in occupied Arab territories. The kingdom closed its airspace for 12 hours, starting from 6 am this morning, and halted all domestic and international traffic. The Saudi monarch appealed to the Islamic world to observe today as a solidarity day with Palestinians after Sunday's shooting at one of Islam's holiest shrines, Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. King Khalid had urged Saudi citizens and people residing in the kingdom to extend liberal donations to their brothers in the occupied Arab territories who he said were confronting an aggressive enemy seeking the Palestinians' extinction and usurpation of their properties. There was a total standstill in Arab, Gulf and Islamic countries including Pakistan, Bangladesh and Iran. Air space of Syria, Jordan and five Gulf states were closed for 12 hours and all domestic and international flights were suspended. Telecommunications in several countries were also disrupted.

Meanwhile, Saudi information minister, Dr. Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani said today the Arab uprising in the occupied territories and the treacherous and oppressive attack on the Al-Aqsa Mosque has shown the world that Israel had lost control over the situation in those lands. He added that the brave resistance shown by Palestinians had [words indistinct] in a desperate reaction by the Zionists who resorted to force and attacked Moslem worshippers at Al-Aqsa Mosque. The information minister said current events provided good signs for ending the ugly Israeli occupation of Arab lands as Palestinians are determined to fight their battle till they realise victory and liberate their country. He reaffirmed the kingdom's unwavering and firm commitment to the Palestinian issue, describing it as a prime concern of the Arab and Islamic nation.

The information minister said the kingdom's stand in support of Palestinians was based on its historic responsibilities toward its Arab and Muslim brothers and stressed Saudi Arabia would remain unaffected despite the great changes that had taken place in the past. He praised King Khalid's call and described it as a total rejection of the Israeli occupation. Dr. Yamani recalled the aid and assistance given to Palestinians since the days of King 'Abd al-'Aziz to fight their own battle against oppressive forces. He reiterated that the Saudi Arabian peace plan provided a new chance to settle the long-standing problem. The information minister also stressed that the kingdom would spare no effort to extend to the Palestinian people all forms of aid and assistance.

In the holy city of Mecca, thousands of worshippers observed special prayers at Al-Harem Mosque for the return of Al-Aqsa Mosque to the Arab rule. The kingdom's cities and towns gave a deserted look as all the public transport came to a standstill. Markets were also closed as a mark of solidarity with the Palestinians. Saudi newspapers and television gave prominence to the cause of Palestinians. Newspapers published special supplements and television gave wide coverage to the Arab fateful issue. In the eastern city of Dammam, the public railway corporation halted the train journey between Dammam and the capital city of Riyadh. The Embassy of the Republic of China in a press statement issued here today expressed Chinese deep resentment over the inhuman acts perpetrated by Zionists at the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem and termed them sacreligious actions against humanity. The statement also endorsed the Republic of China's support to the just cause of the Arab nation.

COMMENTARY CRITICIZES AL-QADHDHAFI'S SICK STANCE'

LD142208 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Station commentary]

[Text] At a time when the Islamic nation has asserted its capacity for cohesion and solidarity with the Palestinian people in the wake of the repeated Zionist trangressions against Islamic sanctities in occupied Jerusalem, and at a time when the Islamic nation's governments and peoples have responded to the call of King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz for solidarity with the Palestinian people, Libyan Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has exposed his hostility to everything that could possibly unite the Arabs and the Muslims. The falseness of what Al-Qadhdhafi claims about his concern for the Palestinian issue has been uncovered.

Reports by international observers confirm that at a time when a state of strong anger prevails in parts of the Islamic world -- represented by today's work stoppage in solidarity with the Palestinian people -- the regime of Colonial al-Qadhdhafi has made it incumbent upon the Libyan people to remain isolated from their Islamic nation and not to express their feelings toward what happened to the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque. Al-Qadhdhafi banned any contribution by or emotional or material participation between the sons of Libya and the rest of the Islamic nation.

Once again Al-Qadhdhafi has exposed his connivance with the enemies of the nation, and once again Al-Qadhdhafi has confirmed his disturbed mentality and his psychological malaise at a time when the Islamic nation is endeavoring to achieve effective solidarity with which to confront the plots of Zionism against the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

The Islamic nation, from east to west, is in solidarity with the call of His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz for solidarity with the Palestinian people who are confronting a ferocious Zionist campaign. But the regime of Al-Qadhdhafi has chosen to be indifferent to Islamic unanimity, despite the solidarity which the nation needs at this very time.

The positiveness of solidarity with the Palestinian people was seen today throughout the Islamic world in the strong response to the call of King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, through the feelings of the international community and through the volume of support and solidarity -- Arab and Islamic -- with the Palestinian people. But Al-Qadhdhafi, who in the past suspended support to the Palestinian mojahedin, today repeated his sick stance when he banned the helpless Libyan people from sharing with their brothers in religion and destiny to express their anger for what had happened to the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque: Israeli desecration and transgression.

UAE

CITIES MARK DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIANS

GF141938 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Apr (WAM) -- Work stopped in all ministries and public services today in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

In Ash-Shariqah all institutions and public and private services came to a halt today in response to the statement released by the president's office calling for a work stoppage in solidarity with the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories and in denunciation of the Israeli enemy's desecration of the sanctity of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the shooting at a congregation praying in the mosque last Sunday.

All activity in the city of Ash-Shariqah and its districts came to a halt. Schools were closed and work at Ash-Shariqah International Airport, the port of Khalid and other prots in the Amirate came to a halt.

In Dubai a work stoppage was observed today in all government departments and private and public services in solidarity with the Palestinian people's struggle in the occupied territories. The city of Dubayy, which is normally bustling with commercial activity, appeared to have come to a complete standstill today. Shops were closed and there were few cars or pedestrians in the streets.

Flights to and from Dubayy International Airport were stopped from 0700 until 1900 today. As a result of this stoppage, 18 flights, including 8 Gulf Air flights, were postponed. Prior to the stoppage, four aircraft carrying 600 transit passengers landed in the airport. The passengers will be housed in hotels until the stoppage is over.

Work at Rashid port came to a halt. Two ships are anchored outside the port waiting for permission to enter the port when the stoppage ends.

In Ra's al-Khaymah all stores were closed today in solidarity with the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and their struggle against the Zionist enemy. The streets were empty and traffic was very light. Flights to and from Ra's al-Khaymah International Airport came to a halt. All shipping activity in the port of Saqr in Khawr Khuwayr ceased.

Ra's al-Khaymah radio devoted its programs today to talks on the uprising in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip and Israeli aggression against the Muslim holy places, and paid tribute to the Palestinian Arabs' steadfastness in the face of the ugly Zionist onslaught.

PDRY

FRONT SOURCES TELL AFP OF FIERCE FIGHTING

NC150715 Paris AFP in English 0702 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] Aden, 15 Apr (AFP) -- Fierce fighting is continuing in North Yemen between government forces and units of the opposition Democratic National Front (DNF), following the failure of a Palestinian-mediated ceasefire to take hold as scheduled on April 6, sources at Front headquarters here told AFP on Wednesday.

A leading member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], held talks here and in the North Yemeni capital Sana'a at the beginning of the month in a bid to prevent a worsening of the guerrilla war waged for some years in the south-east sector of North Yemen by the Front, which is backed by South Yemen's Marxist regime.

Previous ceasefires also failed to last. DNF officials blamed the collapse of the latest mediation on the northern government's refusal of Front proposals.

The Front had offered to accept a political solution to its claims and to halt its armed revolt in exchange for guarantees from the Sana'a Government.

They included withdrawal of government forces from "central regions", an end to the economic blockade of the area, the freeing of 4,000 prisoners, the return and compensation of refugee families and free elections in an atmosphere of "national sovereignty," the DNF sources said.

On the battlefront in the past few weeks, Front units fighting what they term the "Islamic tribal forces" of the North Yemen regime shot down 2 fighter planes and a helicopter, captured 9 tanks and large amounts of ammunition, and took 460 prisoners, the sources reported. Front losses were said to be only five men killed.

The front officials said they feared an "escalation of tension" following a visit to Sana'a on April 7 by Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

They said the Saudis had established an airbridge to supply North Yemen with arms and ammunition worth $400 million.

They said that additionally 60 Jordanian officers who were experts in anti-guerrilla warfare had arrived in Sana'a on April 1. Some British Army officers with a record of service in Northern Ireland were also present, the sources said.

YAR

TRIBES URGE FORMATION OF PEOPLE'S ARMY

PM140937 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Apr 82 p 1

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT "Exclusive" report: "North Yemeni Tribes Appeal to President Salih To Form People's Army to Confront Sabotage and Interference by Aden"]

[Excerpt] San'a' -- In the midst of reports of escalating tension on the borders between the two Yemens ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that North Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih recently received a delegation of North Yemeni tribes. The delegation appealed to him to approve the establishment of a people's army from the tribes in order to support the regular forces in confronting sabotage operations being carried out by the National Democratic Front [NDF] from its safe bases in South Yemen.

The tribal delegation also said that such a people's army would support the regular armed forces if they were compelled to enter battle against the regular South Yemeni forces, something which North Yemen has always avoided when pursuing remnants of NDP elements which have accomplished sabotage operations in the north.

The delegation blamed the South Yemeni Government and told President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih that the government should have been able to contain or, at least, discourage such activity, since a confrontation with Aden in this case would be in defense of land and lives in North Yemen. The tribal delegation expressed the view that the policy of patience and tolerance of the Aden government's provocations in the hope that it will give up supporting sabotage, whether by proclaiming false unity slogans or by other means, is "doubtful."

Although it was not revealed whether President Salih approved the delegation's proposal or not, ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that some of the tribes have already actually begun massing, particularly in the area near Chumar.

GOVERNMENT COUNCILS PLEDGE SUPPORT FOR PLO

JN141437 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] The leader president, Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, presided over an extraordinary expanded session of the Consultative Council and the Council of Ministers at 1000 today to discuss the latest developments in usurped Palestine and the occupied Arab territories, the Zionist aggression against the Arab nation and Islamic holy places, and the means of facing such developments on the Arab and Islamic levels.

The councils heard a full report by the Foreign Ministry on these developments and the potential danger to the victorious Palestinian revolution and the Arab and Islamic nations and their holy places. The councils affirmed the YAR's principled stand in support of the Palestinian Arab people and their victorious national revolution under the leadership of the PLO and its determination to provide all the necessary means to bolster Palestinian resistance, including permitting Yemeni youths to continue to volunteer in the ranks of the Palestinian revolution.

The councils entrusted the brother foreign minister to keep in continuous contact with the PLO in order to follow the developments of the Palestinian people's revolution and just cause and to express the YAR's complete readiness to provide any kind of support and assistance in conformity with its obligations to the crucial issues of our Arab and Islamic nations and their triumph.

MUBARAK REJECTS APPEAL FOR AS-SADAT CASE RETRIAL

NC142000 Paris AFP in English 1956 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (AFP) -- Egyptian President Husni Mubarak today rejected an appeal for a retrial of the convicted assassins of the late President Anwar as-Sadat, defense attorneys in the case reported.

The leader of the assassination plot, Lieutenant Khalid al-Islambuli, and his four co-defendants have been sentenced to death, and their executions could be carried out imminently, the attorneys said.

President as-Sadat died in a hail of gunfire while reviewing a military parade outside of Cairo on October 6, 1981.

Legal sources here said that Lt al-Islambuli and Reserve Officer Husayn 'Abbas would be executed by firing squad.

The three civilian members of the assassination commando group -- 'Abd al-Hamid 'Abd as-Salam ['Ata] Tayil al-Hamida and the group's ideologist 'Abd as-Salam Faraj -- are to be hanged, the sources said.

The five men facing the death penalty were notified of the rejection of their retrial request last night, their lawyers said. Their executions could be carried out at dawn tomorrow (Thursday).

5 As-Sadat Assassins Executed

NC150810 Paris AFP in English 0805 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (AFP) -- The five men sentenced to death for the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat were executed at dawn today, their lawyers announced here.

The two officers were shot by firing squad and the three civilians were hanged.

They were named as Lieutenant Khalid as-Islambuli, Reserve Officer Husayn 'Abbas, 'Abd al-Hamid 'Abd as-Salam, 'Ata Tayil Hamadah and 'Abd as-Salam Farraj.

The five were executed less than 24 hours after President Husni Mubarak had rejected their appeals for a retrial.

Four of them had taken part in the commando attack which killed President as-Sadat on October 6 while he was reviewing troops outside Cairo. Eight others were killed and 28 wounded as the assassins blazed away with sub machine guns.

All five executed today were sentenced to death on March 6 after a marathon 104-day trial of 24 accused. Five of them, including military intelligence chief 'Abbud az-Zumur, were sentenced to forced labour for life, and another 12 received sentences ranging from 5 to 15 years of forced labour.

NO CAIRO CONCESSIONS SEEN IN UPCOMING TALKS

NC141625 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1547 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA) -- MENA has learned that during the talks which will be held in Cairo tomorrow with Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, Egypt will underline its firm position, which is based on the following:

1. Its continued adherence to the peace process and the Camp David accords.
2. There can be no yielding, even of 1 inch of Egyptian land, on the basis of the 1906 treaty which defined Egypt's international borders.
3. Its adherence to the provisions of Article seven of the peace treaty, which sets forth the method for settling differences between the two sides.

The talks between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon are scheduled to start at the Sheraton hotel in Cairo immediately after Sharon's arrival tomorrow.

The talks will focus on the remaining point of difference, the borderline in the Tabah area.

ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER SHARON ARRIVES IN CAIRO

NC150852 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0832 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA) -- Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon arrived in Cairo this morning for a visit of several hours. He was received at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Moshe Sason.

Talks on Sinai Begin

NC150948 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA) -- Official talks between Egypt and Israel on the arrangements for the final withdrawal from the Sinai and the outstanding problem concerning the international border in Tabah started in the Sheraton Heliopolis Hotel at 1000 today.

The Egyptian side is led by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and the Israeli side by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon.

The Egyptian side includes Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, Ambassadors Sa'd al-Fararji, Fawzi al-Ibrashi, 'Ismat Rida, Ra'uf Ghunaym, Mahmud Fathi, Dr Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab and Minister Plenipotentiary Muhammad 'Asim.

The Israel side includes General Sagi and Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Moshe Sason.

The meeting between the Egyptian and the Israeli delegations lasted 1 hour, after which the two delegations proceeded to meet with President Husni Mubarak. They declined to make any statement to reporters on the talks.

'Ali, Sharon Press Conference

NC151212 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met with Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon in the Al-'Urubah Palace before noon today. The meeting was attended on the Egyptian side by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Defense Minister Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali. On the Israeli side, the meeting was attended by Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Moshe Sason.

After the meeting, which lasted about 1 and 1/2 hours, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon held a press conference in which they answered reporters' questions.

The Israeli defense minister said he was happy to visit Egypt once again and added: At today's meeting we discussed all the problems and I will submit a report on my talks in Cairo to Mr Begin this afternoon.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: It pleases us to have Mr Sharon today. We frankly discussed the various problems which were raised in Israel in the last few days and we answered all the points. It is clear that the two states are determined to implement the treaty in good will. Further talks will be held. I am certain that the various details concerning Tabah will be agreed upon, but there will be further talks.

'Ali said that the two states agreed on three basic principles:

1. The Israeli withdrawal to the lines proposed by Egypt.
2. The Egyptian authorities will advance to the line proposed by Israel.
3. The acceptance of Article 7 of the agreement calling for the acceptance of the principle of arbitration.

'Ali said that other questions, such as the deployment of the Sinai multinational force, will be discussed.

Answering a question on whether the withdrawal will take place as scheduled, 'Ali said: I believe it will be on 25 April, as previously confirmed by Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin and as U.S. President Reagan confirmed yesterday.

Sharon will leave Cairo this afternoon for Israel where he will meet with the U.S. State Department envoy Walter Stoessel who is visiting Israel.

CAIRO TO UNDERLINE JERUSALEM STAND AT UN

NC131652 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA) -- Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has sent instructions to permanent Egyptian UN delegate Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid to emphasize Egypt's stand on the question of Jerusalem when the Security Council convenes to consider the recent incidents in Jerusalem. Egypt had denounced the attack on the Islamic holy places and had called on Israel to take measures to safeguard the sanctity of these places in the future.

Egypt's alternate UN delegate Ambassador 'Amru Musa will leave Cairo for New York tomorrow to join the Egyptian delegation during the UN debate on this issue.

AL-AHRAM COMMENTS ON JERUSALEM INCIDENTS

NC132307 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA) -- The newspaper AL-AHRAM emphasizes that the recent incidents in Jerusalem provide new proof of the grave harm which extremism can cause to the efforts that are being exerted on the local, regional and international levels to establish peace in a region whose sensitive spot is Jerusalem.

In Wednesday's [14 April] issue, the newspaper points out in its commentary that although the Israeli Government has denounced the incident and attributed it to a lunatic, there is no doubt that factors which encourage such behavior or foolish extremism do exist: namely, the existence of a suitable atmosphere for actually regarding the Palestinians as second class citizens and an easy target. Besides depriving them of their human rights as a people who have the same right as other peoples to express their free will and determine their own fate in an atmosphere of complete neutrality, the Israeli extremists often feel like confronting the Palestinians and treating them as people under occupation.

AL-AHRAM calls for a quick remedy to the situation and says this will be achieved only by removing the injustices. Peace based on justice is the only canopy under which everybody can find security and safety.

AL-MAJALLAH: MUBARAK MAY ATTEND BAGHDAD MEETING

PM141507 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 3-9 Apr 82 p 11

[Text] According to highly placed Arab sources, secret contacts are currently underway with Egypt to ensure President Husni Mubarak's participation in the nonaligned summit conference scheduled to be held in Baghdad in September. The sources say that these contacts are being made by Arab as well as international circles. They add that the initial response from the Egyptian officials is that Mubarak is willing to attend the summit conference because he wants to emphasize that under this rule Egypt intends to follow a nonaligned policy and does not wish to be linked to either of the two superpowers.

Sources believe that the Baghdad summit conference would provide an opportunity for a direct and open dialogue between Egypt and a number of Arab states, that is if Egypt does not return to the Arab fold before then.

AL-MUSSAWWAR: CAIRO SUSPENDS OAU CONTRIBUTIONS

NC150943 Paris AFP in English 0927 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (AFP) -- Egypt is to suspend its contribution to the Organisation of African Unity budget until further notice in protest against the admission to the organisation of the (Western) Saharan Republic, the usually well-informed AL-MUSSAWWAR reported today.

Egypt would also hold back its subscription to the OAU liberation committee and had decided against inviting the committee to meet in Cairo, the newspaper said.

According to AL-MUSSAWWAR the government has informed the OAU executive bureau that these measures did not otherwise alter Egypt's attitude towards the pan-African organisation.

The Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), proclaimed by the Polisario Front fighting Morocco for control of the former Spanish Sahara, was admitted to a regular OAU meeting in Addis Ababa in February by the OAU Secretariat. OAU specialist meetings since then have been spoilt by a series of walkouts and disputes on the legality of the SADR's admission into the body.

RAMADAN DENOUNCES SYRIAN REGIME AT PROTEST RALLY

JN142014 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Excerpt] Comrade Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and commander in chief of the Popular Army, attended a popular rally in the Al-Fallujah District today to protest the treacherous course of the Damascus rulers who closed the borders with Iraq and suspended the flow of Iraqi oil through Syrian territory.

Addressing the popular rally, the comrade commander in chief of the Popular Army said that the ruler who shells any Syrian city with artillery, destroys mosques and kills children and women cannot surprise us when he closes borders with Iraq and suspends the flow of Iraqi oil through Syrian territory. He added that our country is now passing through a delicate and decisive stage of its confrontation of Iraq's enemies and the Arab nation's traditional enemies, particularly traitor Hafiz al-Asad. Taha Yasin Ramadan pointed out that Al-Asad's treason needs no proof because this regime's successive treasonous stands are very well known to our Syrian and Arab people. He added that since the beginning of the Iraqi-Iranian war, Hafiz al-Asad has been repeating that he has no knowledge about the war. He, however, has been working secretly, providing the Perisan enemy with money and weapons so that they can be used against our militant country. He has been doing so in an attempt to divert the Syrian Arab people's attention. After realizing that his ally, Khomeyni, was collapsing, he began to openly support Iran and work against Iraq and the Arab nation. He closed his borders wtih Iraq and suspended the flow of Iraqi oil through Syrian territory to put pressure on Iraq in service of his Zionist masters, the imperialists and the racist Persians. Taha Yasin Ramadan said: On your behalf and in the name of the Iraqi people we tell Hafiz al-Asad that we shall continue to confront the Pesian enemy with capability and we shall support the Syrian Arab people until the hour of salvation comes to rescue the Syrian people from Hafiz al-Asad, the agent of imperialism and Zionism.

Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed that the Syrian Arab people under the National Alliance for the Liberation of Syria, which represents all Syrian organizations and national groupings and figures, and by raising the slogan of military struggle will find all the support they need from the Iraqi people until the hour of salvation comes.

ÓIL MINISTER DENOUNCES SYRIA'S 'CRIMINAL DECISION'

JN141550 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA) -- Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and oil minister, stated that the Syrian authorities have confiscated 200,000 tons of oil which Iraq had sold to buyers whose tankers were waiting in the Baniyas port to load the oil. In statements to INA today, Tayih 'Abd al-Karim said that the oil was in oil tanks when the Syrian authorities confiscated it and ordered the tankers to leave Syrian territorial waters. He added that the Syrian decision to suspend the pumping of Iraqi oil through Syrian territory contradicts international agreements and norms and has been carried out in a rude manner.

Minister 'Abd al-Karim said that as a result of the measures adopted by Hafiz al-Asad's regime, Syria and Lebanon have lost more than $150 million in cash each year with Syria's share in this loss being 85 percent. Tayih 'Abd al-Karim added that this sum is the total of the duties, interests and other direct fees collected and that the two countries' benefits by far exceed this sum if other factors are taken into consideration, such as the revenues collected from traffic in the ports and the employment of workers.

He said that by these measures, Syria has lost the guarantee of a continued flow of oil both in the short and long term because Iraqi oil is a constant source which is not affected by foreign events and influences. He added that Lebanon's loss is great because besides losing the above sums of money, Lebanon has been deprived of its main source for crude oil needed for local consumption and has thus remained without any crude oil.

The minister stressed that Syria's criminal decision is one of the provisions of the ill-omened agreement that Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam had signed with his Persian ally, the provisions of which are being exposed one by one. Tayih 'Abd al-Karim said that immediately after 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's return from Tehran, the Syrian authorities commissioned four tankers to leave for Iran and bring back oil to Syria. The four tankers, (Aseta), (Manhattan Viscount) (Sanco Brussen) and (Kinkerk Agha Mamum) were loaded with oil from the Iranian island of Kharq on 20, 21, 27, and 29 March and took it to Syria. He added that immediately after the arrival of the first tanker in the Syrian Port of Baniyas on 8 April, the Syrian regime issued its orders to suspend the pumping of Iraqi oil while believing that this quantity of Iranian oil sent to Syria was part of the 1 million tons of Iranian oil supplies which Iran had granted to Syria.

The oil minister said that after Iraq suspended the export of its oil from its southern ports as a result of the Persian aggression, Syria allowed Iraq to use only half of the capacity of the pipeline that passes through its territory. He added tht Iraq had made modifications to the pipeline which passes through Syrian territory which raised its capacity from the 55 million tons before the nationalization to 70 million tons a year. Iraq gave Syria the necessary funds for carrying out and expanding the necessary installations needed for this project on its territory. The oil minister stressed that so far, Syria has not repaid any of these funds and that the Syrian regime foiled many other projects Iraq had proposed, such as the project for transportation and distributing oil products in Syria's northern area, oil exploration projects and [words indistinct].

The oil minister attacked the Syrian regime and said it has concocted conspiracies, carried out sabotage and been hostile to Iraq and its recent crime of banning the passage of Iraqi oil to its markets had taken place when the war of aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation was escalating and comprehensive coordination between imperialism and the Zionist and Persian enemies was being consolidated.

Tayih 'Abd al-Karim said the Syrian measures are a new stab in the back of the Arab nation and harm its pan-Arab struggle. These measures also will deprive Iraq of resources it could use in development fields and of scoring the inevitable victory in the Arab nation's battle which Iraq is waging with honor and responsibility. The oil minister also said the purpose of the Syrian measures is to raise the morale of the Persian enemy and increase its oil expo.ts at the expense of Iraqi oil, particularly since the quality of Iranian oil is similar to that of Iraq. These measures also aim at depriving the Arab nation of a weapon which can be used to defend our Arab nation's fateful causes.

Tayih 'Abd al-Karim stressed that Iraq, which has emerged victorious from all the battles under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, will also emerge victorious this time and will proceed to achieve the Arab nation's objectives and to carry the banner of its glorious mission. As for the treacherous stand of Hafiz al-Asad and his agent clique, we shall let our great Arab people in Syria be the judge because this people can be patient but can never forget.

KDP CONDEMNS SYRIAN MEASURES, SUPPORTS HUSAYN

JN150927 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Apr (INA) -- The Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] has warned that the Syrian regime is playing a dual game by claiming that it is helping the Kurds whereas it is tightening the noose around the necks of Kurds in Syria.

In a statement published by the papers here today, the KDP, which is a member of the Progressive National and Patriotic Front in Iraq, said the Syrian regime is throwing patriotic and struggler Kurds into prison and detention and is depriving them of basic national and human rights. The party added that the Syrian authorities are supplying suspects with money and arms to thwart the self-rule experiment in Iraq -- the experiment which has been practically and constitutionally approved.

The KDP urged sincere Kurds to defend Kurdish national rights, to brandish arms in the face of the Syrian regime and to cooperate with Kurdish revolutionaries in Iran's Kordestan for the sake of obtaining their legitimate rights.

The KDP reiterated its support for the revolution in Iraq and its leadership, stressing that it will turn Iraq's Kurdistan into a graveyard for all traitors and lackeys and that it will not allow anyone who lets himself be seduced harm the achievements of our Kurdish people and their self-rule.

In conclusion, the party said the Syrian regime confirmed its treason when it adopted a hostile stand against the revolutionary regime in Iraq and signed a strategic treaty with the agent reactionary regime in Iran.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES ISLAMIC MEDIATION DELEGATION

JN141130 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn received here this morning the delegation of the World Islamic Conference led by M.H. Mohamed, Sri Lanka minister of transport and religious affairs. During the meeting, the president explained Iraq's viewpoint on the war with Iran and its desire to achieve a just peace, stop fighting, begin negotiations to solve all the problems which led to the war and establish understanding and cooperation in the region.

The president reviewed the situation before the war broke out and Iraq's attitude toward that situation, in addition to the current military situation on the battlefront. During the meeting, which took place in a positive atmosphere of Islamic principles and fraternity, the delegation briefed the president on the results of its talks in Tehran.

The meeting was attended by Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah, Revolution Command Council secretary and acting chief of the president's office, and Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of foreign affairs. The delegation, which was entrusted with this mission by the international seminar on the universality of Islam which was held in Sri Lanka at the end of last month, arrived here from Tehran the day before yesterday within the context of its efforts to solve the Iraqi-Iranian conflict and end the war.

Hammadi Meets Delegation

JN131214 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Apr (INA) -- Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi met here today with the delegation of the World Islamic Conference led by M.H. Mohamed, Sri Lanka minister of transport and religious affairs. Dr Hammadi briefed the delegation on the Iranian aggression and ambitions against Iraq, stressing Iraq's determination to defend its independence, national sovereignty and legitimate rights. He asserted that Iraq has no ambitions in Iranian territory and that it is defending its rights in an aggressive war which was imposed on it. He added that Iraq had called for peace more than once out of its belief in the principles of Islam. However, he said, Iran rejected all initiatives to put an end to the war and establish peace.

The delegation arrived here yesterday within the context of its efforts to solve the Iraqi-Iranian conflict. It was entrusted with this mission by the international seminar on the universality of Islam which was held in Sri Lanka at the end of last month.

HAMMADI CONFERS WITH NONALIGNED COMMITTEE

JN131202 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Apr (INA) -- Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi met here today with the nonaligned good-will committee led by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca. It has been learned from Foreign Ministry sources that the Cuban foreign minister briefed Dr Hammadi on the committee's efforts to reach a just and honorable settlement of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict.

Dr Hammadi stressed that Iraq highly evaluates the committee's efforts within the context of the mission entrusted to it. He said Iraq adopts a firm stand to defend its legitimate rights to land and waters. He also asserted Iraq's readiness to cooperate with the committee to the maximum in order to ensure peace, security, respect of sovereignty and independence, noninterference in internal affairs and renunciation of the policy of force and hegemony, in addition to other principles approved by international Law and the Nonaligned Movement.

The committee, which has previously visited Iran and met with Iranian officials within the context of its mission, includes Lameck Goma, Zambian foreign minister; Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; (Romesh Bandari), Indian Foreign Ministry under secretary; in addition to Isidoro Malmierca, Cuban foreign minister and chairman of the committee.

Committee Departs

JN141743 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA) -- The mediation committee of the nonaligned foreign ministers' conference left Baghdad for Kuwait this evening at the end of a 3-day visit to Iraq. The committee, which is headed by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, comprises Zambian Foreign Minister Lameck Goma; Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; and Romesh Bahandari, Indian Foreign Ministry under secretary. In a press statement before leaving Baghdad, the committee stated that it had informed Iraqi officials of its desire to pursue its efforts for seeking a just and honorable solution to the dispute in harmony with the mission entrusted to it by the Nonaligned Movement. The committee added that during its meeting with President Saddam Husayn, it had pursued efforts to reach a just and honorable solution to the dispute between Iraq and Iran. The statement also said that the committee met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi and other Iraqi officials and was briefed by Dr Hammadi on Iraq's view on the Iraqi-Iranian dispute.

ARMED FORCES COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUES

Communique No 676

JN131725 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Apr (INA) -- During the past 24 hours, Iraqi forces killed 18 Iranians, downed 1 fighter plane and destroyed 1 personnel carrier, 1 gun, 1 vehicle and 2 fuel tanks. Military Communique No 676 issued by the Armed Forces General Command said that Iraqi fighter planes all day today raided enemy units, positions and concentrations in the central and southern sectors of the front, scored direct hits and returned safely to base. The communique said that our sacrifices were five marytrs in all sectors.

Following is the text of Communique No 676 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In order to preserve Iraq's pride, victory and unified will, the sons of Iraq are continuing their battle against the racist Persian regime's forces and the Zionist and traitors to the Arab homeland standing behind this regime such as the rancorous regime of Hafiz al-Asad. Results of the operations carried out by our armed forces last night and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded with various weapons an enemy concentration in front of their positions in the Shush area and killed nine enemy soldiers.
2. Our heroic air force planes raided all day today enemy units, positions and concentrations in the central and southern sectors of the front, scoring direct hits and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy in men and equipment. Explosions and fire were seen in enemy positions by our ground forces. All our planes returned safely to base.
3. At 1338 today, an enemy fighter plane was shot down in the Ahvaz area in the southern sector of the front. The plane was seen falling in flames on enemy territory.
4. Five were killed and two fuel tanks were destroyed and burned in the Abadan area.
5. Three were killed in the Nowsud area.
6. One was killed in the Ahvaz area.
7. One personnel carried and one gun were destroyed in the Bostan area.
8. One vehicle was destroyed in the Iranian position opposite Panjwin.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 18 killed, 1 fighter plane downed and 1 personnel carrier, 1 gun, 1 vehicle and 2 fuel tanks destroyed.

9. Our sacrifices: Five martyrs in all sectors.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 April 1982

Communique No 677

JN141637 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA) -- The Armed Forces General Command stated that during the past 24 hours, the Persian enemy sustained 12 killed and various military hardware was destroyed. Communique No 677 issued by the Armed Forces General Command stated that the forward units in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area struck enemy concentrations opposite their positions with all kinds of weapons, killing five and destroying one excavator. The following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In defense of Iraq's dignity and sovereignty and to safeguard its legitimate rights, our valiant armed forces continued their military activities in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today with the following results:

1. Our forward units struck enemy concentrations opposite their positions in the Khafajiyah area with all kinds of weapons, killing five and destroying one excavator.
2. Three were killed and one stockpile of ammunition was destroyed in the Abadan area.
3. Three were killed in the Nowsud area.
4. One was killed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area.
5. One observation post was destroyed in the Iranian area opposite Panjwin.
6. One excavator was destroyed in the Ahvaz area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 12 killed and 2 excavators, 1 observation post and 1 stockpile of ammunition destroyed.

7. Our sacrifices:

   A. In personnel: seven martyrs in all sectors.
   B. In equipment: one mortar was damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 April 1982

SOUTHERNERS EVACUATE AS NEW CLASHES ERUPT

NC141922 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] According to reports, the inhabitants of 10 villages in southern Lebanon have deserted their homes because violent shelling is continuing in the area.

Meanwhile, the Arab Deterrent Forces have evacuated some of their positions in the streets and quarters of the southern suburbs of Beirut, especially from the Burj al-Barajinah area, because armed clashes have intensified between the Amal movement, on the one hand, and the Palestinians and some organizations of the Nationalist Movement, on the other.

During a meeting it held at noon today, the PLO Executive Committee decided that the situation has seriously deteriorated and decided to move Fatah forces east of the Al-Awza'i area [in Beirut] and to concentrate other forces in the Bi'r Hasan area [in Beirut] to forestall any repercussions that might occur in the southern suburb by the Amal movement in reaction to the current clashes in the An-Nabatiyah district, which have been going since this morning between the Amal forces and Palestinian and communist forces in the villages of the An-Nabatiyah and Az-Zahrani districts.

Shi'ite Council Statement

NC141924 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Excerpts] The violent clashes in the southern Lebanese villages and the displacement of the inhabitants there prompted the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council to convene an emergency meeting today. The council issued an important statement, which was read by Deputy Chairman of the Council Shaykh Muhammad Madhi Shams ad-Din.

[Begin Shams ad-Din recording] At its extraordinary and emergency meeting, the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council studied the very serious situation in southern Lebanon, which culminated this morning in the seizure of several villages and the displacement of the inhabitants in others as a result of concentrated artillery and rocket bombardment and the use of various other kinds of weapons by the joint forces. The shelling resulted in the death or wounding of a large number of innocent people and the destruction of houses and property. This ugly attack is continuing.

In light of this serious situation, the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, while saluting and blessing the vigilance and courage of our kinfolk in southern Lebanon, urgently asks all those responsible for this grave aggression in the Palestinian resistance and the Nationalist Movement to stop the shelling of the villages immediately, to pull the gunmen out of them and to withdraw the weapons directed at them. The continuation of this situation portends grave consequences for the entire Arab situation.

We are now facing imminent Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon. The people of southern Lebanon, who have been mobilizing themselves to confront Israeli aggression and who have been preparing themselves to receive Israeli bullets, are now facing Arab bullets, which are supposed to be directed at Israel, and are being displaced from their homes not by Israelis but by fellow Arabs.

The Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council rejects and denounces this situation and will not keep silent about it. It calls on all honest and sincere people in the Arab and Islamic worlds to reject, denounce and condemn it. [end recording]

BUTRUS, SYRIA'S KHADDAM MEET, MAKE STATEMENTS

NC141538 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text A meeting will be held at B'abda Palace at 1800 [1600 GMT] today under the chairmanship of President Ilyas Sarkis. Those attending will include Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus. They will appraise the results of the meeting which was held in Shtawrah today between the Lebanese and Syrian foreign ministers and the security developments in the south following the resumption of clashes there this morning between armed organizations in some villages. Ministers Butrus and Khaddam met the Masabikah Hotel in Shtawrah from 1100 to 1300 today. After their talks, Minister Butrus made the following statements:

[Begin recording] [Question] Your Excellency, Mr Minister: It is a fact that special importance has been attached to today's meeting with Minister Khaddam. Do the results match the level of importance attached to this meeting?

[Answer] I believe that the level and atmosphere of the discussions were at the level of importance of current events. As for the results, they will be felt gradually and continuously and not suddenly because of the nature of the issues we are tackling.

[Question] What remains most important are the discussions on southern Lebanon. An aggression against the south, if it takes place, will undoubtedly threaten a great catastrophe, the effects of which will extend beyond Lebanon. What are the means agreed upon with Syria to confront this danger?

[Answer] We devoted the most important part of our discussions to this issue. We reviewed what Lebanon and Syria have done to confront this danger. It transpired that our opinion on the developments is the same. There is coordination between us that we will continue on all levels to prevent aggression and to confront the Israeli danger and ambition.

[Question] There remains a question connected with Arab strategy, particularly that such a strategy has not yet been charted. There are some who say that it is impossible to draw up a unified Arab strategy because a reconciliation between the logic of the Palestinian revolution and the prerequisites of Lebanese sovereignty preclude this. What is the solution?

[Answer] I reject the word impossible. I believe that there is nothing impossible in life, particularly in politics. What appears difficult today might be easy tomorrow. Naturally, there are difficulties, and I do not deny this. However, our duty and the justifications for our presence dictate that we should tackle these difficulties and try to overcome them.

[Question] Let us return to domestic affairs, Your Excellency, Mr Minister. In view of the serious developments surrounding us, we might be in dire need of achieving a minimum understanding among the disputing parties. Was the provision of this minimum understanding discussed at today's meeting?

[Answer] Today's meeting dealt with internal Lebanese conditions from the angle of the need to prepare an appropriate atmosphere in light of external and internal dangers threatening Lebanon which would enable the authorities to continue to function normally and proceed in a way that would not harm the country or others but, on the contrary, would improve conditions.

Each of us will exert efforts in this regard, and we will resume our meetings in light of the results we achieved.

[Question] A last question, Your Excellency. Regarding this month and next, observers consider them a main turning point in the area, leading to either detente or the continuation of the crisis. What is your opinion?

[Answer] It is difficult for a person to predict anything under these delicate conditions. All I can say is that there are some dangers, that there is a crisis in the area and that we are working to prevent it from exploding. However, I cannot assert anything authoritatively. [end recording]

Minister Khaddam said:

[Begin recording] [Question] Your Excellency, Mr Minister: Following what Minister Butrus told us regarding the meeting, we would like a chat with you. The fact is that there is now a quasi Arab isolation of Lebanon and Syria concerning support from Lebanon to confront an imminent aggression. How is it possible to confront any aggression, Isra Israeli, of course, if it takes place?

[Answer] I do not agree to the words "Arab isolation" of Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians. I believe that the Arab people throughout the Arab homeland stand with us. Howver, if there are some who have isolated themselves in a framework other than that of confronting Israel, then this does not express the stand of the Arab public. By virtue of our position and of the geopolitical position which has imposed upon us the responsibility of confronting aggression, we in Lebanon, Syria and Palestine must always shoulder this responsibility and do all we can to make it a real and serious responsibility and involve others in shouldering it. I believe that the Arab nation, and when I speak about the Arab nation I mean what I say, is with us in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Those who speak with a logic or from positions other than ours are isolated from the nation, its future and its destiny.

[Question] On the basis of what President al-Asad said yesterday -- that a solution in Lebanon is not impossible -- how will Syria, in your opinion, contribute to this solution?

[Answer] Actually, the world impossible does not exist in Life. The Lebanese crisis has many aspects and there must be continuous work to eliminate its vestiges. During today's discussions with colleague and brother Fu'ad, we dealt with an important aspect of these vestiges and agreed to continue our contacts to eliminate these vestiges and put the country on the right course. We must admit that there are real difficulties resulting from external interference and complications of the crisis itself. However, there must be patient work. Regardless of some of the eventualities or complications in the crisis, all of us must work patiently on the basis that a solution to the Lebanese crisis does not serve our people in Lebanon alone, but also serves the Arab nation and primarily our just cause and our just struggle against Israeli aggression.

[Question] Let us return, Your Excellency, Mr Minister, to the Arab strategy. The implementation of an Arab strategy in the south has been delayed. There is fear that the purpose of this strategy will be to eliminate the consequences of an aggression and not the confrontation of the aggression. What are your comments?

[Answer] Can we say that there is no Arab strategy? There is an Arab strategy which has been approved at various Arab summit conferences. This strategy stipulates that we should provide all that it is necessary to confront the aggression. What is required is to implement this strategy.

The failure to implement this strategy is the result of various circumstances, most of which are connected with the Arab situation and with the Camp David course introduced into the area and the deep negative aspects of this course which are playing a major part in obstructing the Arab role and its correct course. We in Syria, Lebanon and Palestine must at all times and under all circumstances resist the aggression directly and confront it on behalf of the Arab nation. We must discharge our responsibilities and commitments, because the target of the aggression is not a specific geographic point. Its target is a specific national point -- our existence as a nation on this earth.

After analyzing all aspects of the situation, we agreed with Butrus to continue the contacts. Indeed, I was happy when he was asked about the impossibility of reconciling between the prerequisites of sovereignty and the logic of the revolution. I was happy with his answer. I add to this answer that if the aggression does not lead to such a reconciliation, then the revolution will not be a revolution and sovereignty will not be sovereignty. In such an event, we will say a thousand goodbyes to the revolution and to sovereignty. We believe that Israeli aggression must obviate all considerations of any party which weaken the possibility of confronting this aggression. Whenever there is a need for such a meeting, it will be held. The distance between Beirut and Damascus is less than 100 kilometers, as you know, and the lines are always open between His Excellency President Sarkis and His Excellency President Hafiz.

[Question] What are your comments on the air bridge between Mubarak's Cairo and the regime of Saddam Husayn and its supply of weapons?

[Answer] This confirms our view of the war taking place between the Iraqi Government and the Islamic revolution in Iran. It is our view that this war was started to obstruct Iraq, the role of Iraq and that of the Arab nation. [end recording]

AL-MAJALLAH: SARKIS SAYS U.S. GIVES NO GUARANTEE

PM140939 London Al-MAJALLAH in Arabic 3-9 Apr 82 p 10

[from "AL-MAJALLAH Correspondents" feature]

[Text] Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis has confirmed to several Arab ambassadors and diplomats that Lebanon has on several occasions tried to get a clear-cut official U.S. guarantee that Israel would be prevented from launching a major attack on its territory but the Reagan administration has refused to give such a guarantee. Sarkis told these diplomats that he was "very worried" about the possibility of "unprecedented" developments in Lebanon after the completion of the withdrawal from Sinai.

STRIKE OBSERVED IN SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIANS

NC140940 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] The general strike was fully observed in western Beirut, Tripoli, Sidon, Shtawrah, Ba'labakk, Duhur ash-Shuwayr and Bulunya today in solidarity with the Palestinian people in their upsurge against oppressive measures in the occupied territory to protest the attack on the Al-Aqsa [Mosque] last Sunday. Government departments and public organizations were closed in accordance with the directive issued by the prime minister yesterday.

PREMIER AL-KASM ON RELATIONS WITH JORDAN, IRAQ

JN141956 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm has expressed confidence that the fraternal Iraqi people realize that Syria's closure of the border with Iraq is not aimed against them but against the Baghdad rulers' policy because they have launched a war against the Islamic revolution in Iran, a war which is not in the interests of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples, and because these rulers have caused us much pain by sending killers and arms and because they stood behind all the crimes that took place in Damascus, Hamah and elsewhere in the country. This was said in interview with French radio representative Alain de Cheveroun yesterday.

On the alleged Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai, Dr al-Kasm said this is a minor issue and meaningless because it does not solve the problem. Furthermore, this alleged withdrawal is tied to Camp David which, in the first place, does not lead to peace in the Middle East.

Prime Minister al-Kasm wondered: Why are they giving such importance to formal issues that do not affect the main issues of the Middle East cause? He added that the Arab-Israeli conflict has never been over the issue of the Sinai or the Golan but over Palestine and the Palestinian cause. As long as this is not resolved, everything else remains meaningless.

Prime Minister al-Kasm said: Actually even if the Israelis leave the Sinai, Egypt will continue to be occupied because of the Camp David agreement. We understand that occupation does not necessarily have to be military.

Al-Kasm asserted that before Camp David Egypt was much stronger that it is now. Proof of that is that Begin gives himself the right to criticize any statement or act by any Egyptian official. There is no state or official in the whole world that has the right to interfere in others' affairs as Begin is doing with Egypt.

Ask whether Egypt may return to the Arab homeland, Dr al-Kasm said Egypt is always in the heart of the Arab homeland but not the Egyptian regime. They have one chance and that is by erasing the shame and eliminating the deeds of As-Sadat. Syria will not accept Egypt's return to the Arab homeland as long as the latter continues its relations with Israel.

Replying to a question about what Syria will do in case of an Israeli aggression against Lebanon, Dr al-Kasm said that aggression does indeed exist in Palestine, Egypt, Jordan and Syria. We realize the Israeli officials' objective is to continue their aggressive scheme until they fulfill their dream of establishing Greater Israel. As for us, southern Lebanon is like southern Syria, like the Sinai and Jerusalem. If Jordan is attacked we will defend Jordan exactly as we defend Syria. The same applies to southern Lebanon and to any other Arab country, regardless of the cost.

Dr al-Kasm stressed that any attack on Lebanon will be faced by Syria. No one can tell if such an attack will lead to more than one regional war.

Asked about the Iraqi regime's policy, Prime Minister al-Kasm asserted that the peoples of Syria and Iraq belong to one nation, namely, the Arab nation. However, when some part of the body becomes ill, it is necessary to take certain measures against this part. He added that not only do we accuse Iraq of interfering but we have evidence and we have informed our Arab brothers about this evidence. We could have done something other than closing the borders, such as defending the borders by sending the army to the Iraqi border. Yet, it would have been strange to withdraw our army from confrontation lines with Israel and send it to the Iraqi border.

Prime Minister al-Kasm said: Why does the whole world rise to contain a simple dispute between two countries while it remains silent over the continued fighting Iraq and Iran? Doesn't this mean something?

We are sorry about every single soldier who has been killed or taken prisoner, whether Iraqi or Iranian, because their losses are ours as well. This war serves no one but the Americans and the Israelis, concluded Dr al-Kasm.

KHADDAM RETURNS FROM TALKS WITH LEBANON'S BUTRUS

JN141959 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam returned to Damascus this afternoon from Shtawrah following his talks with Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus.

LIBYA'S JALLUD ARRIVES FOR 1-DAY VISIT 13 APR

JN131344 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, Libyan Revolution Command Council member, arrived in Damascus at 1300 today on a visit to Syria.

Welcoming him at Damascus International Airport were 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the director of the Libyan People's Bureau; and the bureau's staff in Damascus.

Received by Al-Asad

JN131947 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1750 today 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, Libyan Revolution Command Council member. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

They discussed the question of convening a summit conference of the pan-Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front shortly, issues dealing with mutual cooperation between the two fraternal countries and the current Arab situation.

Leaves Damascus

JN132033 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2025 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Excerpt] Damascus, 13 Apr (SANA) -- 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, Libyan Revolution Command Council member, left Damascus at 2030 this evening following a short visit to the country during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad.

KUWAITI ADVISER DELIVERS MESSAGE, LEAVES 13 APR

JN131952 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] 'Abd ar-Rahman Salim al-'Atiqi, adviser to the amir of Kuwait, left Damascus at 1900 today at the end of short visit to Syria during which he delivered a message to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad from Kuwaiti amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Farqu ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs.

U.S. UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE ARRIVES 14 APR

TA141927 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] U.S. Under Secretary of State Walter Stoessel arrived in Israel this evening to participate in the contacts intended to find a solution to the problems developing between Israel and Egypt on the eve of the Sinai evacuation. The U.S. statesman will meet with the prime minister and with the defense and foreign ministers in Jerusalem tomorrow. On Friday he will leave for Cairo.

Defense Minister Sharon will leave for Cairo tomorrow for a visit lasting a few hours. Our political correspondent Elimelekh Ram reports that the defense minister will apparently also meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Sharon will confer with Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and he is supposed to receive the Egyptians' reply to the prime minister's proposal on solving the problem of the 15 border points. Sharon will also learn Egypt's position on Israel's complaints about various breaches of the peace treaty.

Arrival Statement

TA150810 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] Overnight, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Walter Stoessel arrived in Israel to discuss the final withdrawal from the Sinai. He and Israeli leaders are to meet today on some of the outstanding problems between Egypt and Israel. When Stoessel arrived he was received by Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir:

[Begin recording] [Me'ir] The American contribution was critical in all stages of the peace process and the Camp David agreements and in the peace treaty, and we are sure today again that with the American help and [word indistinct] that the peace treaty will be kept on both sides scrupulously as we have done and together we'll succeed in your crucial mission on this most important topic.

[Stoessel] Thank you very much. It's a very great pleasure for me to be here in Israel. I appreciate your words of welcome. I look forward very much to my meetings with Prime Minister Begin, with Foreign Minister Shamir and with Defense Minister Sharon. President Reagan and Secretary Haig have asked me to come to offer our help as full participants in the Camp David process. In these last few days before the withdrawal from the Sinai we do want to be helpful and in every possible way to ensure that peace is preserved and strengthened now and in the years to come. [end recording]

Comments on Mission

TA151022 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Apr 82 pp 1, 11

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] "The United States is concerned about developments in Israeli-Egyptian relations and it has decided to make a serious attempt to overcome the problems that have been created on the eve of the completion of the evacuation. We intend to guarantee that the peace process continues," U.S. Under Secretary of State Walter Stoessel said last night in his first talk with Foreign Ministry personnel who met him at Ben-Gurion Airport.

Mr Stoessel said the U.S. administration had decided to act vigorously after receiving Prime Minister Menahem Begin's message to U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

According to him, U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State Haig are personally watching the situation and they asked him to make every effort to guarantee the elimination of difficulties in Israeli-Egyptian relations.

This morning he was scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in order to give them the appeal by President Reagan and Secretary of State Haig to Israel to complete the Sinai evacuation on time. He also expressed the U.S. administration's concern about the reports of the intention by various circles in Israel, including ministers, to demand a delay in the withdrawal.

U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig is "on alert" for personal intervention in the crisis, and this will be decided upon at the end of his deputy's round of talks in Jerusalem and Cairo. This afternoon Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir will host the U.S. under secretary of state on a tour of Yad Vashem and this evening a formal dinner will be given for him by the Foreign Ministry.

Meets With Begin

TA151018 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] The 2-hour discussion between the prime minister and Under Secretary of State Walter Stoessel at the prime minister's office in Jerusalem ended less than an hour ago. On leaving the meeting, Stoessel said he was confident that the disputes between Israel and Egypt would be resolved. His visit is an expression of the United States being a full partner in the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt.

U.S. Officials Confident

TA150616 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] Despite the fact that Under Secretary of State Walter Stoessel is only beginning his round of talks in Jerusalem and Cairo, senior U.S. officials this morning were optimistic that the crises which led to his mission have ended. Israel will not invade Lebanon, nor will it postpone the withdrawal from Sinai, it is believed in Washington. Yosef Pri'el reports from Washington:

[Begin Pri'el recording] Last night Ronald Reagan said in reply to questions by journalists that he received an explicit commitment from Prime Minister Begin that Israel would withdraw from the Sinai as planned and that it would honor all its Camp David commitments. I trust in the commitment I received from Begin, the U.S. President stressed.

Also, on the matter of Lebanon the United States is satisfied with unequivocal messages it has received according to which no Israeli invasion into Lebanon is planned in the near future so long as quiet prevails on Israel's northern border. Under these circumstances, U.S. officials now see the mission of Under Secretary of State Stoessel as the holding of Prime Minister Begin's hands lest they weaken before 25 April. Although no date has been set for the end of this mission, it appears that the deputy secretary of state will stay in the area until the withdrawal is complete so that the United States will not be confronted again with new surprises. [end recording]

SHAMIR: TREATY WITH EGYPT WILL BE FULFILLED

DW131245 Bonn DIE WELT in German 10/11 Apr 82 p 3

[Juergen Liminski report on an interview with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, date of interview not given]

[Text] Jerusalem -- Israel's foreign minister, Yitzhaq Shamir is a quiet man, level-headed, almost cautious.

"The answer will be forthcoming," he says, adding that Israel never remained passive in the face of challenges like the assassination of the diplomat in Paris. "It will be forthcoming, but not at the place of attack." That is the French Government's responsibility.

But the other European states are challenged as well. The anti-Israeli propaganda of the PLO and its terrorist actions are not confined to France. This is why Israel will also appeal to the Federal Government to create the prerequisites for more sharply confining the activities of the PLO Bureau in Bonn. "Under the cloak of PLO representations in Europe, international terrorism can make preparations for its operations almost without hindrance. Granting these bureaus the status of diplomatic immunity means covering the machinations of international terrorism."

Shamir looks at the world map in his spare, relatively small office. "The PLO is the biggest and most important terrorist organization in the world," he says. It has dependencies worldwide.

The terrorists get anything they need in the PLO camps: training, passports, arms. Diplomatic couriers cross the borders of the Western world in the service of the PLO. At the moment about 2,500 terrorists are in Lebanon, among them, Turks, Frenchmen, Germans, Latin Americans. "But none of them is being trained for a mission in a communist country. Their sphere of operations is in the West. It would surely be in the interest of Europe to curtail that freedom of movement, for instance, by abolishing diplomatic immunity for PLO representatives. Shamir thinks it is a sign of a "certain weakness" that this has not been done to date.

The network of interlocking interests in the Middle East is very complicated, and the pattern of East-West differentiation is "unsuited to explain events in the Arab world." The regime in Baghdad, for example, is closer to the Soviet Union than to the West. The same holds true for the incumbent regime in Tehran. But this can change quickly, because "this is not a problem of conviction or ideology." These regimes do not make any judgment and decision on the basis of long-term interests but by the current situation. Whoever helps preserve personal power is a partner.

The Soviet Union, however, has one advantage. Instinctively people in the Middle East muster more understanding for totalitarian regimes than for the ideas of democracy. Thus, in Saudi Arabia which is allied with the United States, it is veritably popular to speak positively of the Soviet Union while preferably staying silent with respect to the United States.

Shamir does not consider the Iraqi-Iranian war a threat to Israel. But indirectly it may affect Israeli-Egyptian relations if and when the religious forces in Cairo gain even more impetus through a triumph of the mullahs. Shamir, otherwise rather inscrutable, appears concerned with this subject. He, too, is familiar with news reports on arrests of the opposition and of a constantly increasing influence of radical-religious quarters in Egypt. These quarters do not think much of the United States. "Some Muslim brothers may well cooperate with Moscow out of pragmatic considerations." What also worries him is that people in Mubarak's environment constantly and more clearly speak of nonalignment and neutrality.

Just the same, "the treaty will be fulfilled and the Sinai evacuated, even if it is painful. Whoever believes that Israel must also make advance territorial concessions in the western Jordan region is mistaken. Samaria and Judaea are the source of our nation." This does not apply to the Sinai where it was possible to fix militarily acceptable borders in the desert. "Samaria and Judaea are inalienable for our security. Tel Aviv and Jerusalem cannot be defended without a massive presence in this area." If serious negotiations in that regard are to be held, said Shamir, then "Jordan must participate as well." Just the same, King Husayn's participation in autonomy negotiations at the moment is more remote than ever before.

SHARON LEAVES FOR CAIRO, TO RAISE PLO ISSUE

TA150438 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0406 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon leaves this morning for Cairo to discuss the dispute over the border demarcation at 15 points between the two countries. Israel wants Egypt to adopt the prime minister's proposal that the status quo be maintained at the 15 points until a joint committee reaches agreement.

Our political correspondent reports that Minister Sharon will also broach the problem of Egypt's relations with the PLO. Israeli sources have said this is a vexing problem in need of a solution. They claim that Egypt recently provided operational aid to this organization. The defense minister will stay in Cairo for a few hours and will meet President Mubarak, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Defense Minister Abu Ghazalah.

YAMIT EVACUATION DELAYED; DISMANTLING CONTINUES

TA141951 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] At mignight tonight the entry permits granted the Yamit District residents by the defense minister will expire. It was made clear to the withdrawal opponents that the IDF will not allow them to remain in the area after the Passover holiday. Nevertheless, our correspondent in the south 'Ofer Taler reports that security forces will again postpone the date of evacuating people left in the district.

Our correspondent has learned that political echelons have instructed the IDF to continue dismantling equipment and structures tomorrow but not to start the evacuation of about 3,000 people left in the district. In 12 days Israel is scheduled to hand over to Egypt the remainder of the Sinai, in accordance with the peace treaty.

HA'ARETZ COMMENTATOR: SINAI CRISIS ARTIFICIAL

TA140551 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Apr 82 p 11

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "An Exaggerated Crisis"]

[Text] As if with a magic wand, the day before yesterday, the signal was given for the emergence of a new crisis in the region. Instead of the danger of war up north and the possibility of Israel starting a large-scale military action against the terrorists in Lebanon, the talk now -- as if by order from above -- is about "horrible" things happening in the Sinai and between ourselves and Egypt. A new front has been opened and the effort has been shifted from north to south. Now the talk is of the danger to peace posed by Egypt. The prime minister has explained to the U.S. ambassador that Israel is firm in its resolve to abide by the peace agreement in all its clauses, but it is repeatedly heard from the defense minister's office that it is better not to complete the pullback before the problems we are having with Egypt are resolved. The truth is that this talk began some time ago in connection with the dispute over Tabah and the border demarcation but it has become loud and clear in the last 2 days, to the point of creating a sense of grave crisis.

What has suddenly happened that we had not previously known? Just days ago, on his return from a trip to Egypt and the Sinai, Minister Sharon showered praises and compliments on Egypt. Of the violations in Sinai, which have been a fait accompli for quite a while, he did not say a word when traversing the route taken by his division in battle. From this one can only draw the conclusion that the new crisis is an artificial crisis. It is certainly artificial in its timing.

What is happening in Sinai is not new, and what is new is not surprising. Even if we do have well-founded complaints against Egypt, it is better not to be drawn into the public furor of threats. Matters should be seen in proportion and we had better not lose our nerve, which we shall be needing to cope with future crises that are bound to crop up one after the other.

It may therefore be asked, what is the purpose behind the talk of a new crisis between us and Egypt? One possibility is that whoever initiated the public furor wanted to deflect attention from the northern border -- at least for the time being. A second possibility is that the stirring up of the new crisis is a tactical prelude to last-minute negotiations between us and Egypt prior to the withdrawal and prior to the raising of new damends. A combination of these two possibilities is also in the cards.

The Egyptian violations of the military agreement in Sinai are not new. They are an ongoing affair, and the list of Israeli complaints has waxed and waned with circumstances. Some of the violations are the subject of dispute between us and Egypt; the agreement is interpreted differently by the two sides. For example, what is the meaning of "within the framework" of a battalion or a brigade and how many frameworks are there to a standard Egyptian division? We have long since known of all these violations, and if there is indeed something new, it has not been divulged this week. We have been reporting them to the U.S. supervisory mission, which has claimed that Egypt has rectified them. But obviously such rectification is worthless if, within an hour of inspection, the forces barred by the agreement are back again where they were.

What contributes to the impression that the crisis is artificial is the fact that for many long months our official spokesmen were at pains to explain that these were insignificant violations and we would do well not to publicize them. Every time HA'ARETZ published details of the violations, I heard all manner of moans -- starting with the protest that publicity about these violations spoiled relations and normalization between the two countries, and ending with the complaint of a gratuitious slight to our high-ranking Egyptian guests visiting the country. The authorities were at pains to explain that nothing awful was happening and that the Egyptians were not taking unfair advantage of what was permitted to them under the military agreement. What has led to the change 2 weeks before completion of the withdrawal? It seems to me that one of the reasons for the timing is the approach of the date when the U.S. supervisory mission will make way for the Multinational Force and Observers [MFO]. Israel, apparently, wants to "clear the decks" prior to this transfer. This is perfectly understandable, but is the last-minute hullabaloo the right way of going about it?

The smuggling of arms and sabotage materials across Sinai for the PLO in the Gaza Strip is not a new revelation, either. This channel has been operating for a long time, and whatever there was to disclose about it has already been publicized: For instance, the fact that the leader of the gang that murdered some 10 Arabs came from Cairo across Sinai carrying with him hundreds of handgrenades; the fact that PLO offices have been set up in Cairo and in Al-'Arish. It may be assumed that this channel for smuggling arms will get much busier on completion of the withdrawal and following the decision not to fence off Rafah, but this was a calculated risk which the defense minister took upon himself.

Our wrath has also been directed at the statements by the Egyptian delegate to the conference of nonaligned countries held in Kuwait. The Egyptian delegate, who is also his country's delegate to the United Nations, came out in support of a Palestinian state. We were shocked at this. It may be asked, however, why is it permissible for President Mitterrand to say such things in Jerusalem, whereas when spoken by the Egyptian delegate they are regarded as a violation of the peace agreement? Ever since Mubarak took As-Sadat's place, it has been obvious that the PLO issue would be one of Egypt's calling cards on its return to the Arab world. Israel was well aware of this, and many experts were emphatic about it in internal reports and in the media. Eventually Egypt will probably also endorse the amended Fahd plan.

It is obvious that the Palestinian issue is going to be one of the principal bones of contention between us and Mubarak's Egypt -- contention that is already evident in the Egyptian president's refusal to visit Jerusalem. So long as this dispute remains just verbal one can live with it. But a different situation will arise if, for example, the Egyptians extend aid to the terrorists in southern Lebanon. Until such time though, we had better not work up a crisis and aggravate the dispute.

There remains the dispute over the border demarcation between us and Egypt. This is indeed one of the issues on which Israel can point to a strange obstinacy on the part of Egypt. In the forefront of the problem is the Tabah area. The Egyptians contend that Israel is showing astonishing stubbornness over such a tiny area, but our impression is that what the Egyptians are after -- their heart's desire -- is to finish off Elat as a tourist resort. True, Israel has refused arbitration by a third party, as stipulated in the agreement, and this has caused astonishment, but various compromise proposals have been raised pending a final settlement.

This matter, too, must not be made into a focal dispute that will spoil everything. Anyone suggesting that there be no withdrawal from the rest of the Sinai on account of Tabah, is bent on bloating the dispute. If we stay on in Ofira on account of the Tabah dispute, it will be said that we violated the peace agreement. Ideally, this dispute should be settled before 25 April, but if this endeavor fails, then the proper thing will be to accept the prime minister's proposal that there be no withdrawal from this disputed area and that this parcel remain in our hands until the disagreement is settled. In any event, even if we acknowledge this parcel to be a neutral zone, we must insist that Israel remain free to operate there under one arrangement or another.

None of the above is reason for driving the nation crazy, for piling crisis upon crisis and for booting us around like a football: yesterday, a crisis up north; and today, with Egypt. Whoever has his finger on the buttons had better remember that he is wrecking the nerves not only of the PLO, but of the people in Israel.

Further Press Comment

TA131041 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0440 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] HA'ARETZ writes that if we allow the Egyptian Army to stay in an area in which it has no right to be and overlook seemingly slight violations we will pave the way for more serious violations. The Egyptian leadership must know that Israel cannot under any circumstances reconcile itself to such a gnawing away at the military terms of the peace agreement. It is to be hoped that the U.S. assistant secretary of state will draw the conclusion that his country must induce Egypt to remove from Zone B all the forces and arms which are in excess of the quota fixed in the military appendix.

The prime minister's proposal that a parity committee [va'ada paritetit] of experts deal with the border demarcation dispute and that in the meantime the status quo be maintained constitutes a satisfactory basis for discussions. It is fitting that the Egyptian leadership cooperate with us in this matter.

DAVAR says that the prime minister intends to carry out Israel's commitment to complete the Sinai withdrawal and that he will surely do so. It cannot be believed that, after Israel has given up supremely important strategic and economic installations in the Sinai and after the disgraces the government has brought upon itself in this affair, Menahem Begin would refrain from carrying out this part of the peace agreement. The political significance of the storm which began raging in government circles during the last 2 days is not to be exaggerated.

The violations of which Egypt is accused are not serious or new and do not cast doubt on the carrying out of the Israeli pullback. Meanwhile, it is obvious that the statements by Shamir and his colleagues are infusing new hopes among the withdrawal opponents in their Sinai holdouts. It is to be hoped that they will be quickly disabused of their delusions.

In an editorial entitled "Present-Day Parting of the Red Sea," HATZOFE writes that peace between Egypt and Israel is indeed on the way. However, presently this peace is mainly on paper with the waves at sea threatening to shift at any moment. The chariot of the pharoh and his horsemen is still in hot pursuit and is trying to hit us in the rear everywhere, in Judaea and Samaria, in Europe, and in the political arena. Meanwhile, the state is embroiled in a difficult national controversy and is rife with differences of opinion concerning political goals and the peace itself. The present-day exodus from Egypt is one full of doubts.

'AL HAMISHMAR says that although the information available until now to the public is very limited, it suffices to permit the drawing of one certain conclusion: Whatever the essence of the current dispute with Egypt, the withdrawal must be carried through to its completion. A peace agreement is not a soccer ball to be kicked at every moment of doubt, even is some marginal basis exists for that doubt.

The Jerusalem POST says the government is playing a very strange and dangerous game with the state.

EHRLICH: PLO HAS 'CROSSED THE RED LINE'

TA131212 Tel Aviv YOMAN HASHAVU'A in Hebrew 13 Apr 82 pp 13, 14, 15

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich by Yehuda Schiff -- date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich, a man known to be moderate and thoughtful, sounded like someone who had "crossed the red line" when he spoke about the limit of Israel's patience in view of the wave of terrorist attacks in Europe and Israel.

Simha Ehrlich, who has on more than one occasion spoken against a planned military move, said in an exclusive interview to YOMAN HASHAVU'A: "We must act in order to prevent a deterioration on the northern border. The cease-fire with the PLO can come to an end any day." Ehrlich further disclosed that Israel took into consideration the position of the United States -- that every effort should be made to keep the cease-fire agreement for some time, showing even more patience than in the past. However, the time has come and terrorists have crossed the border.

"One and a half to 2 months ago, when the number of cease-fire violations was not great and they were isolated incidents, I put up with them. What is happening today is unsufferable. We have authoritative information that this is the PLO and that the latest attacks are not isolated or incidental but the result of a well-planned action to attack Israel, and Israelis, everywhere. As I see it they have crossed the red line, even though I do not like to use the term 'red line'."

[Question] Is the murder of the Israeli diplomat in Paris a definite violation of the cease-fire agreement, even in the U.S. version of Philip Habib according to which only attacks originating in Lebanon can be considered violations of the agreement?

[Answer] We have no doubt that the head that planned and the hands that implemented the murder belong to the PLO, even if another organization bears the responsibility for it. For Israel it makes no difference whether an Israeli citizen is killed in Paris or in Gaza. It is an Arab bullet.

Europe, Lebanon or anywhere else are one front. The Government of Israel will not be able to accept this situation.

[Question] In your opinion, is the cease-fire collapsing?

[Answer] It was clear to us from the beginning that the cease-fire on the northern border was a temporary situation. Sooner or later the PLO will try to break out with all its strength and we will have no alternative but to suppress it and uproot it. The United States and Philip Habib, who initiated the agreement, also know this. The United States knows the security problem very well on the northern border and it knows very well that sooner or later this volcano will erupt.

The PLO is a terrorist organization whose whole existence is terrorist activity against Israel. Since the cease-fire on 24 July 1981, the PLO has been preparing for a resumption of its activity. Digging the shelters, the underground roads, the bunkers, the enormous procurements of tanks, artillery and other arms are intended to accomplish one goal: the renewal of fighting against Israel. At some moment or other all of this must break out. It resembles a flower that cannot blossom in a dank cellar, but needs sunlight. Israel will not be able to stand aside in view of this preparation, with overt violations of the cease-fire agreement, and the time will come when it will have to act -- and using every measure.

"I have no doubt at all," the deputy prime minister stressed, "that the terrorists have a target date for a renewal of fire. As soon as they believe they are ready, they will open fire in the north. The Government of Israel is prepared for this and has decided to prevent a deterioration on the northern border."

[Question] Deputy Prime Minister, are you happy with Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon's security policy?

[Answer] In the past I have disagreed with Ari'el Sharon's political-security path. During my time in office in the previous government, I was not opposed to his appointment to the post of defense minister, because the matter was not topical. When Prime Minister Menahem Begin decided to appoint him to the post of defense minister in the current government, I did not object.

Mr Begin had the right and authority to appoint ministers as he wished. After Mr Begin decided on the portfolios, we had to accept his decision. I live in the full awareness that the defense minister's policy is that of the government. So far I have not noticed any significant deviations in the way he works.

[Question] Is the recent situation in the territories a direct result of the defense minister's policy?

[Answer] I do not attribute the events in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza to the defense minister's policy. There were riots in the West Bank during Peres' period as defense minister, too. Then Israel destroyed more houses in 1 month than the Likud government has in 2 years. The defense minister, with the government's support, decided on a liberal policy in the territories. We decided to encourage moderates in the field, enough to create a focus for political solidarity with people who are not dependent on the PLO. As a result of this, the riots began. The PLO felt it could lose its control and influence in the field and it began to work against our effort to build up an alternative leadership. By encouraging local leaders, known as moderates, we want to advance the implementation of the autonomy plan. Members of the village leagues who are showing great courage and willingness to stand up openly against the PLO are not yet strong. It is our task to strengthen them, to treat them with respect and guard them. In my assessment, what is happening in the territories today is an expression of the great mistake Shim'on Peres made when he was minister of defense. Shim'on Peres introduced the PLO into the territories through the elections he held in the West Bank in 1976.

I am not saying Peres did this deliberately, but there is no doubt this was a mistake and we are now trying to rectify it.

[Question] In conclusion, Deputy Prime Minister, are you not concerned about the future of peace with Egypt?

[Answer] The price we paid for peace is heavy and painful. For the first time in the history of Zionism and 100 years of settlement, we have been forced to uproot Jewish settlements. All of this is in return for peace. I believe it will be a cold peace, but peace, not war. The Egyptian front no longer exists and thus we will save human lives, widows, orphans and bereaved parents. If we weigh the pain of uprooting settlements against preventing war, it seems to me that the price we have paid, which was heavy and painful, was worthwhile.

INFRASTRUCTURE IN N. BORDER AREA BEING BUILT

TA131233 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Apr 82 p 1

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent]

[Excerpt] A certain relaxation of the tension of the past few days was felt yesterday in southern Lebanon. According to Western journalists in Beirut it appears that "the anticipated Israeli action has been postponed at this stage." Sources point out that meanwhile work by Israel to set up an infrastructure in the border area is continuing. Among other things, two helicopter landing fields are being completed, one near the village of Shu'bah and the other near the village of Shab'a.

LEBANESE GROUP THREATENS TO SHELL SETTLEMENTS

TA150824 Jerusalem POST in English 15 Apr 82 p 1

[Report by David Bernstein]

[Text] The Syrian-backed Shi'ite militia in Lebanon, Al-Amal, yesterday threatened to break the 8-month-old cease-fire in the south by shelling Israel settlements along the border. A prominent Al-Amal leader, Hajj Muhammed (Ghadir), is quoted as saying he would begin a bombardment of settlements in northern Israel with his long-range 130 mm artillery if the PLO did not intervene to halt the escalating round of clashes between Al-'Amal and its Iraqi-backed rivals in southern Lebanon.

This bizarre and potentially dangerous development, which followed the shelling of several Shi'ite villages by the pro-Iraqi Ba'thists and communists in recent days, has been seen as a transparent attempt to "blackmail" the PLO into coming to Al-'Amal's aid in the feud. The PLO is believed to be extremely chary about providing Israel with what it sees as a long-awaited excuse to invade south Lebanon, and has gone out of its way in recent weeks to stress that it is scrupulously upholding the cease-fire.

The umbrella-organization's leadership is, however, still having considerable difficulty controlling some of its more radical factions, and Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) has again claimed responsibility for Tuesday's ambush of an army truck in the Jordan Valley which Israel views as a clear violation of the truce. The mainstream PLO leadership has in the past expressed its concern at what appears to be Hawatimah's persistent attempts to sabotage the cease-fire, and a PLO spokesman in Beirut is reported yesterday to have dismissed this latest DFLP claim as a fabrication.

AP reports from Beirut that mortar, rocket and machinegun battles broke out in the Lebanese capital last night, between pro-Iranian Shi'ite militiamen and Lebanese pro-Moscow communists and Iraqi-backed militiamen. Police said at least six persons were killed and eight wounded.

FIGHTING SPREADS TO UNIFIL AREAS IN S. LEBANON

TA150725 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] The fighting between the Shi'ite militias and those of the terrorists and leftists in Lebanon has spread to the area under UNIFIL control in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in a few villages in the western sector last night heavy automatic fire, RPG and mortar shelling occurred. Shots were fired also at the positions of UNIFIL's Sengalese units, but no one was injured.

JERUSALEM ARABIC VIEWS LEBANESE ROLE AS VICTIM

JN131643 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 13 Apr 82

["Observation" by Amin Tawfiq]

[Excerpts] The current Middle East crisis about whether Israel will carry out a military operation in Lebanon can only be understood by those who are well-versed in the affairs of this region. Syria rightfully fears the outbreak of a destructive war that will inevitably end with its complete defeat in the field. Jordan fears that Syria might drag it into this war as it has done in the past when it was forced to send forces to the battlefield in the 1973 war. 'Arafat's organizations realize that the first result of such an operation, if it takes place, would be the destruction of all the military hardware, ammunition and men that the organizations have amassed. Israel avoids such a military operation as long as it can, because it does not seek war for the sake of war and because, if the war breaks out, it will be a course from which there will be no escape.

All the parties concerned are afraid of the war because it will harm what they have and because they have their own reasons for being afraid of it. As for Lebanon, it fears that destruction may befall it without having sought such a war. Lebanon, the victim, rightfully fears that the Arab world would make it their scapegoat. Lebanon also fears that the organizations, Syria and the Arab world at large would make it an arena of war despite the fact that it does not want to be so and despite the fact that Lebanon has done nothing to merit such a fate. All the parties in the conflict, except Lebanon, have their own reasons and excuses for being in the heart of the crisis. Lebanon fears that the Arab world would drag it into a war which it does not seek, want or wish to participate in.

The strange thing in the current Middle East crisis is that those who want or do not want war know and wish that the war, if it takes place, God forbid, will take place in Lebanon and not anywhere else. Lebanon does not understand the logic of things in which it has found itself involved. In reality, Lebanon has been transformed by the Arab countries into a laboratory in the wake of September 1970 and they have unanimously agreed that Lebanon will be the arena where wars take place and where differences between this or that Arab country are settled.

Lebanon is therefore a silent victim which can do nothing. An example of this is that a dissident army lieutenant takes scores of soldiers and officers as prisoners within Syria's sight and hearing, thus reaffirming that disorder prevails in Lebanon and stressing the fact that Lebanon is an open arena where any Arab country can do what it wants, including waging wars, calling for them or hosting wars on Lebanese soil.

BRIEFS

SALES TO EGYPT -- Israel last year sold $50 million worth of fuel byproducts, mostly kerosene, to Egypt. This was the first time this kind of sale was made between the two countries. Israel is the largest buyer of Egyptian crude oil. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 13 Apr 82 TA]

ALGERIA TO CHAIR AFRO-ARAB MEETING IN DAKAR

NC150840 Paris AFP in English 0814 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] Addis Ababa, 15 Apr (AFP) -- Algeria is to chair a meeting of the standing commission on Afro-Arab cooperation in Dakar, Senegal, April 22-23, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Secretariat announced here today.

The meeting, the fifth ordinary session for the commission, will explore ways of strengthening Afro-Arab cooperation and the implementation of joint projects, the announcement said.

OAU Secretary-General Edem Kodjo and Arab League Secretary-General Chedli Klibi are expected to present their reports to the conference, to be attended by 12 foreign minsters [words indistinct].

The African members of the standing commission are Angola, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Swaziland and Tunisia.

Algeria, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Libya, the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), Somalia and Syria will represent the Arab states.

Afro-Arab cooperation has never seriously taken shape and has been a source of frustration for the OAU, in the view of some observers.

A number of African states are known to have been critical of alleged selectivity and religious motivations in Arab aid coming to the continent.

African countries on the other hand have been deeply committed to the Arab cause, particularly since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war when a vast majority of them broke off diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv as an expression of their solidarity with the Arabs.

Privately, many Africans also resent that the OAU is too often embroiled in problems affecting Arab interests north of the Sahara while only a few OAU member nations benefit from Arab financial support.

PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR FRENCH-AFRICAN SUMMIT

AB080839 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 7 Apr 82

[Text] The conference of French-African heads of state will be held early in October in Kinshasa. Preparations are going on at a good pace. A meeting was held yesterday at the council building between the executive secretary of the party and first stae commissioner, Citizen Nsinga Udjuu Ongwakebi Untube, and members of the preparatory commission. State Commissioner Yoka Mangono assures that everything will be ready by August. Zaire, which is determined to honor its commitments, wants the Kinshasa session to be free of problems. The budget for this summit was adopted at yesterday's meeting. The commission will now move to the stage of implementing the preparations.

ALGERIA

WORKERS STRIKE IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINIANS

LD141104 Algiers APS in English 1011 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Algiers, 14 Apr (APS) -- All Algerian workers throughout the country will mark today their support for the Palestinian population [words indistinct] territories; after the profanation of "Al-Aqsa" Mosque.

By ceasing work today the Algerian people and the all Arab and Muslim populations will express their condemnation to the barbarous Zionist system.

This symbolic act is a vibrant homage to the Palestinian people in its firm determination to [words indistinct] its fair struggle and to take up the challenge. Through demonstrations, strikes and political process the Palestinian will always express its refusal to the fait accompli that Zionism tries to impose. The Algerian people will once again proclaim its faith in the future of the Palestinian people during the popular meetings that will be held today. It will be an occasion also for reaffirming its will to consolidate the Palestinian people's struggle because as President Chadli Bendjedid said that affects the Palestinian people affects also the Algerian people.

LIBYA

SAUDIS COMMIT 'VILE ACT,' CLOSE AIRSPACE

LD141320 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] The Saudi regime has committed a vile act conflicting with Arab traditions and Islamic values. Saudi Arabia has closed its airspace which is a bridge between Tripoli and Aden used to ferry equipment and supplies for the relief of the Yemeni flood victims.

COMMENTARY CRITICIZES SAUDI STRIKE CALL

LD142324 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Commentary by JANA "political editor"]

[Excerpt] The U.S. imperialist plan to make the Arab masses despair in their struggle against the Zionist enemy receives increasing support from the reactionary Saudi regime, which sings out about false glories and heroism, and raises imaginary banners calling for holy war and prayer in Jerusalem.

In the course of this support by the regime -- which attempts, with disgusting determination, to affirm its reactionism and agentry -- comes its call today for a strike, a call designed to steal the limelight in an attempt to get it out of its isolation. It believes that with this strike it has liberated Jerusalem, bolstered the struggle of the Palestinian revolution, liberated the usurped land from those who seized it; that it has taken revenge on the killers of a Palestinian child; that it has brought back respect to those praying in the 'Umar Mosque who were mowed down by bullets of treachery and deceit.

The ruling regime in the peninsula wants to devote itself to misleading, deceiving and hanging on to foolish justifications and excuses -- as has been its position through a series of disgraceful stands, wavering and cowardice. Yet by doing this it wants everyone to thank it for this initiative and to be praised by all -- incense holders in Khartoum, custodians of oppression in Muscat and the faltering ruling family in Mogadishu.

What has this strike done and what has it realized for the Palestinian people? From our pan-Arab struggling view, it is without content and effectiveness. However, the servants of imperialism in Riyadh have greatly relied on it. They claim that it was more effective than the stones used to wrest freedom in the West Bank and it aroused more reaction than the statements made by the stands of the Palestinian strugglers. It is also claimed to be an indication of conquering land, liberating Jerusalem and raising the Palestinian flag; a stand dictated by Islamic law and a message in the service of the Islamic world. Wonders will never cease. Aren't those Saudi rulers, who called for a strike in support of the Palestinian people's struggle in the bank and in Gaza, the ones who took a disgraceful stand in support of the Balfour promise and bolstered measures for its implementation. Aren't they the ones who in 1948 declared that they were appealing to the Palestinian people to be patient and have self-restraint?

PDRY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DEPARTS 14 APR

LD140944 Tripoli JANA in English 0840 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Apr (JANA) -- 'Ali Antar, member of the Political Bureau of the Socialist Party and first deputy prime minister of Democratic Yemen, and his accompanying delegation left here tonight after a visit to jamahiriyah. Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander-in-chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, the ambassador of Democratic Yemen to jamahiriyah and the North Yemeni charge d'affaires were present to bid farewell to the guests.

Brigadier Antar expressed in a statement to JANA's correspondent at the airport the Yemini people's appreciation and gratitude for the Libyan Arab people's assistance and aid to the Yemeni people helping it overcome the difficulties arising for the floods, which had swept some regions of Democratic Yemen. He stressed that this aid would remain as a symbol of fraternity binding the two brotherly peoples and consolidating bilateral militant relations.

CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH ROMANIA

LD141520 Tripoli JANA in English 1425 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Apr (JANA) -- An agreement for cooperation in industrial construction was signed this morning between the jamahiriyah and Romania. The secretary of the general people's committee for housing signed the agreement on the Libyan side and the Romanian minister of industrial construction, Ion Stanescu, on behalf of Romania.

Stanescu Departs

LD150114 Tripoli JANA in English 1832 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Apr (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY) -- Mr Ion Stanescu, Romanian minister of industrial construction, left here this afternoon after a several day visit to jamahiriyah.

MAURITANIAN OFFICIAL AFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR LIBYANS

LD150900 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Apr (JANA) -- Diop Moustapha Limine, assistant permanent secretary of the Military Committee of National Salvation and Mauritanian information minister, arrived last night in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to JANA, Diop said the Mauritanian people stand by the fraternal Libyan Arab people who are facing U.S. plots. We will back them because we are confident of the principles and firm stand of the Al-Fatah Revolution in supporting the peoples' struggle for their freedom.

Regarding the brother leader's call to turn the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied Arab territories into a popular revolution, Diop said Mauritania supports this call because it can see that the aggression against the Palestinian people is directed against the entire free world. We must stand with strength and firmness by the side of the Palestinian and African peoples to face U.S. imperialism in the Arab homeland and on the African Continent.

As for the Al-Sa'ud plot to flood the world market with oil, Diop Moustapha Limine called for the Arab countries to stand with their Arab brothers exposed to an economic blockade aimed at turning them away from their stand and principles.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA VIEWS OAU, FRENCH, U.S. RELATIONS

PM141021 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 7 Apr 82 pp 1, 5

[MAP reprint of interview granted to LE QUOTIDIEN of Paris by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs M'hamed Boucetta on 6 April]

[Excerpt] LE QUOTIDIEN: What is the state of French-Moroccan relations? Apparently, there has been some problem over military spare parts which have not been supplied to you....

Boucetta: This affair is simply a technical problem. Aside from that, it is true we were apprehensive when the Socialist government came to power in France because of some of the French Socialist Party [PS] stands on the Sahara. But subsequently the contacts made at various levels, and particularly Francois Mitterrands' meeting with His Majesty Hassan II, made it possible to clarify many problems which, although they were not all solved, are on the way to being solved. We intend to maintain good and even preferential relations with France, given the major ties between our two countries both on the cultural and the commerical levels. There are difficulties but they are not insuperable.

LE QUOTIDIEN: Is that because of the PS which still does not always talk the same language?

Boucetta: That is a problem not unique to the French PS. I myself belong to a political party and I know that once you are in government positions become more flexible. On the whole, after the initial fears, relations between Morocco and France are improving. It is true there is particular sensitivity in Morocco toward anything which comes from France. Moroccan opinion has not forgotten the colonial period when we had French residents general who dictated their will and the Moroccans would not like France to again behave like that. We want to have relations with France based on mutual respect.

LE QUOTIDIEN: Do you think the West Sahara conflict will lead to the breakup of the OAU and jeopardize the Tripoli summit?

Boucetta: The Tripoli summit will certainly be threatened. We will try to ensure that the OAU does not break up and that is why we are asking for an extraordinary summit to be called. Back at the Freetown summit 2 years ago, we raised the issue, saying that before discussing the admission of a new state it is first necessary for the OAU to pronounce on its existence in the framework of the scheduled procedure: Is it a state? Is it independent and sovereign? The question was then frozen and that was later confirmed several times, notably at the last Nairobi summit.

LE QUOTIDIEN: So why did the OAU secretary general organize that vote on the SDAR's admission?

Boucetta: He gave in to pressure. Those really responsible for this affair oppose the holding of a referendum in the Sahara.

LE QUOTIDIEN: Algeria?

Boucetta: Algeria and Libya.

LE QUOTIDIEN: Why does Morocco refuse to negotiate with Polisario, as it is proposing?

Boucetta: We have 120 Algerian prisoners here, including officers, and it is from Algerian territory that the aggressors are coming. Polisario is simply an Algerian creation. If we have to have discussions with anybody, it can only be with those responsible.

LE QUOTIDIEN: Namely?

Boucetta: Algeria and Mauritania.

LE QUOTIDIEN: Is the Sahara conflict behind the recent strengthening of Morocco's military cooperation with the United States?

Boucetta: We saw that our aggressors were using very sophisticated weapons. We also need sophisticated equipment to defend ourselves if we want to be able to respond effectively. That is the reason for our appeal to the United States. Our military cooperation with the United States is aimed primarily at ensuring the defense of our territorial integrity and our sovereignty.

LE QUOTIDIEN: Isn't there some risk in involving Morocco too much in U.S. strategy? Don't you fear that other countries in the region might be tempted to strengthen their relations with Moscow?

Boucetta: That has already been done. Look at the Soviet arsenal which Libya has for instance....

LE QUOTIDIEN: But surely that development could be further accentuated?

Boucetta: That is true, but we see the main danger as the one that threatens our sovereignty and our territorial integrity. It is that danger which we intend to counter first before dealing with the rest.

TUNISIA

PARLIAMENTARY ISSUES DISCUSSED WITH CHINESE

LD141434 Tunis TAP in English 1353 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Tunis, 14 Apr (TAP) -- A working session comprised Tuesday [13 Apr] in Tunis a Tunisian parliamentary delegation and a delegation from China's national people's assembly, staying now in Tunis.

The two delegations examined at this meeting questions relating to the internal organization of the Tunisian House of Deputies and China's people's assembly as well as to the parliamentary life in the two countries.

ETHIOPIA

TRADE MINISTER RETURNS FROM TALKS IN PDRY

EA142048 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] The joint commission set up to implement the 5-year economic, scientific, technological and trade cooperation agreement between socialist Ethiopia and the PDRY recently held its second meeting in Aden and mapped out an implementation strategy after examining this year's cooperation program.

This was disclosed by Comrade Wollie Chekol, external trade minister, who returned home this afternoon after heading the Ethiopian delegation at the second meeting of the two countries' joint commission which convened in Aden recently to assess the economic, scientific, technological and trade cooperation between the two countries in the past year and to prepare a cooperation program for the next year.

On arrival in Addis Ababa, Comrade Wollie said the recent meeting of the joint commission of the two countries, which prepares a program of action each year and ensures its implementation, discussed ways of further expanding transportation and communication links, particularly air and maritime transportation. He added that an agreement was reached to start a ferry service between Assab and Aden.

Comrade Wollie said a cooperation strategy was mapped out to further strengthen the tourism industries of the two countries and to consolidate educational and cultural ties. He also said that a detailed plan had been worked out to cooperate in the training of students.

Regarding economic and trade relations, Comrade Wollie said that after discussing them at length, the meeting had worked out an action program for next year. It was learned from the comrade minister's statement that both sides made great effort to further strengthen the existing economic and trade relations between the two countries.

KENYA

NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

EA141150 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Nigerian Foreign Minister Prof Ishaya Audu arrived in Nairobi last evening with a special message from President Shehu Shagari to His Excellency President Moi.

Professor Audu was met at the airport by Kenya's foreign affairs permanent secretary, Mr J.G. Shamalia; Nigerian High Commissioner to Kenya Mr Nuhu Mohammed; and the acting chief of protocol, Mr Denis Afande. He announced that the Western Sahara issue and the restoration of peace in Chad are among the issues he will discuss with President Moi.

BRIEFS

RELATIONS WITH CHINA -- The eastern provincial commissioner, Mr John Etemesi, has hailed the thriving economic and technical cooperation existing between Kenya and China. Mr Etemesi said both countries had much to learn from each other and thanked the Chinese Government for its assistance to Kenya in various fields. Mr Etemesi made the remarks when he received a Chinese economic and technical study team in his office. The team is currently touring the province as part of a feasibility study tour on several proposed projects. The visiting Chinese group is in Kenya to study areas of economic cooperation between Kenya and China that were agreed upon during the 1980 state visit to China by His Excellency President Moi. [Text] [Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 6 Apr 82 EA]

SOMALIA

GOVERNMENT GIVES 'FULL SUPPORT' TO KHALID CALL

EA141134 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 2045 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] The Somali Foreign Ministry released a statement on 13 April regarding a message received by President Barre from King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia on the 11 April wanton Jewish attack on the Al-Aqsa Mosque. In his message, the king called on all Islamic nations to demonstrate on 14 April in support of the Palestinian cause.

After giving due consideration to the attack on the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Somali Government has decided to give full support to King Khalid's call to the Muslim world. Somalia considers the naked Jewish aggression of the Al-Aqsa Mosque an act of violence carried out against the dignity and aspirations of all Muslims.

Somalia, as a member of the Islamic world, declares 14 April as a day of demonstrations in solidarity with the Muslim people of Palestine. The demonstrations will take place in Mogadishu.

Demonstrations Held

LD141608 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Excerpt] Huge demonstrations condemning the recent wanton Jewish attack on the holy Mosque of Al-Aqsa and Israel's continued massacre of the Palestinian people were held today at the tomb of the unknown soldier in Mogadishu. The demonstrations were attended by thousands of people, including members of social organizations, students, civil servants and residents of the Benadir region.

The assistant to the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party secretary general and the third vice president, Challe Ismail Ali Abokor, addressed the demonstrators. Challe Ismail spoke in depth about the history of Islam and the continuous struggles by Islamic forces to spread and strengthen Islam. The vice president declared Somalia's support, in deed and principle, for its Palestinian brothers whose rights have been usurped by the Jews.

The Somali people, who are 100 percent Muslim, are protesting the Jewish attack and murder of innocent people praying at the holy Mosque of Al-Aqsa, said Challe Ismail.

LIBERIA

DOE ADDRESSES NATION ON REDEMPTION DAY

AB131435 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1115 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Address to nation by Liberian Head of State Samuel K. Doe on the second anniversary of Redemption Day in Monrovia -- live]

[Text] I must ask you, ladies and gentlemen, to please rise and join us in a moment of silence to the memory of one of our great heroes, Lt Col Fallah G. Varney, and all those who lost their lives in the cause of our revolution.

Distinguished representatives of heads of state and government, Mr Vice Head of State and cochairman of the People's Redemption Council [PRC], Mr Speaker, Mr Secretary General and the service members of the Cabinet, Mr Doyen and members of the diplomatic corps, Mr Chairman and members of the Supreme Military Tribunal, Mr Chief Justice and members of the People's Supreme Court, members of the churches, our partners in progress, fellow citizens:

It is with particular joy and pride that we extend a very warm welcome here to our distinguished guests who have been designated by their respective heads of state and government to attend the second anniversary celebrations of our National Redemption Day. It is also a pleasure for me to greet other guests who have traveled from far and near in response to our invitation to join us on this happy occasion. It is the sincere wish of the PRC, the Government and people of Liberia and foreign residents in our midst that your brief stay with us will be most pleasant and enjoyable. Mr Vice Head of State and general chairman of the National Redemption Day Commission, the (?standing) members of the commission, contributors, Liberians and partners in progress, I [words indistinct] at this time to salute you for so willingly indentifying with us through financial, material and moral contributions. We particularly urge you the members of the commission to continue (?working) for the well-being of our people and for the prosperity of our dear country. The demonstration of your entire dedication to the success of this occasion convinces all of us that our people are prepared and willing to help themselves individually and collectively at all times.

My fellow citizens, we are today celebrating 2 years of the wonderful and glorious experience in furtherance of the destiny of the new people and the new nation. We have witnessed with admiration the striking endeavors of the masses, their dedication, patriotic ideals and their confirmed commitment to (?aspiring) toward a brighter future for themselves and their country. It is our hope and our expectation that nothing will discourage you in your urge to move ahead.

Ladies and gentlemen, while we record a fair amount of peace and stability on our continent, we continue to decry the acts of repression of racist South Africa against our brothers and sisters in that country and in Namibia. Meanwhile, we condemn the inhumane acts of aggression carried out by South Africa against the people of Angola.

On the issue of the Western Sahara, we have been keenly watching political developments surrounding that territory since our last summit in Nairobi. Of late, the handling of this situation by the secretary general of the OAU has not been most satisfactory (?to several countries). It had therefore become imperative for member states of the Mano River Union to convene a summit in Conakry last Thursday to review the question of the unauthorized admission of the Polisario Front to the OAU.

As a result of this meeting, we unanimously condemned the action of the secretary general and declared it null and void. At the same time, we agreed that the matter could only be resolved at an ordinary session of the OAU. Also as a result of that important meeting, the three nations of the union have decided to intensify cooperation in all fields of activity for the promotion of better understanding among their respective countries.

Fellow citizens, for the last 2 years we have endeavored to [words indistinct] and encourage cooperation among our people. However, this program has been hampered by many factors, one of which is the tendency of newly appointed Cabinet ministers, managing directors and directors of autonomous agencies to recommend the removal of officials and civil servants serving in these places. [Words indistinct] and all of us must learn how to work with each other to sustain these institutions. We must therefore discard this habit. At the same time, we will never encourage those who plot against progress by attempting to undermine their fellow men through political and other means. [applause]

You will recall, fellow citizens, that in our Christmas message, we abolished all committees in the council so as to allow the body to function as a single entity. We are pleased to report that since the abolition of committees, the distinguished public servants of the council have conducted the business of the nation without much interfering from intergroups. [applause] Meanwhile, we commend members of the council for their continued dedication, support and cooperation given us during last year. Definitely, in unity and strength, we shall always win the respect and admiration of our people.

During the period under the review, we found it necessary to make a number of changes in the Cabinet and other government agencies. However, it is our desire to reduce the relatively high turnover in top government personnel but we recognize that this will be achieved only if we put the interest of government first and work with honesty to win the respect and admiration of those we serve. My fellow citizens, a great turning point in our country was reached last Christmas when the council took a number of unprecedented measures which were unique in the history of military government. We freed all political prisoners' we lifted the freeze on bank accounts of former political detainees; we pardoned the greater number of those wanted for crimes against the state and we welcomed the return of the exiles. We are therefore proud on this occasion to witness a new awakening of a genuine political and social reconciliation in Liberia. In concentrating on the very difficult financial condition which we are experiencing, we continue to realize that our needs far exceed our resources. We need good roads throughout our country, including the paving of all major highways; we need improved electrification in most parts of the country; we need better hospitals and schools. In the field of communications, we must emphasize that the general national awareness needed among our people can be more adequately realized by providing coverage to radio listeners and television viewers across the country. In this connection, it is our intention to extend our national radio and television network nationwide by 1985. [applause]

In order to adequately plan and implement most projects by the National Redemption Commission in the counties, territories, districts, chiefdoms, clans and towns of the country, branches of the commission will be established in these areas. [applause] Meanwhile, as this commission is development-oriented, we hereby propose that the amount of $1 million be raised to finance programs under its auspices. In addition to allocations that will be made in the national budget, we will have to also depend on all those who have always identified with us in such endeavours. At the same time, our country is continuing to be pressurized by worldwide circumstances; thus we find ourselves in the unfortunate position where most of the financial resources necessary for national development are now being [word indistinct] to meet the ever increasing cost of fuel oil. This is why we attach extreme importance to oil operations within our territorial waters. Already an agreement has been signed with [name indistinct] and the [word indistinct] Oil Company based in the United States for the exploration and production of offshore petroleum. The contract area is the Bassa Basin located between Mesurado and Grand Bassa Counties. Drilling is to commence soon. [applause]

My fellow citizens, considering our financial limitations, we can only start to improve upon our university and technical institutions rather than building new ones. We know that thousands of students from many parts of the country find it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to enter the University of Liberia or Cuttington University College. The council, therefore, consider it imperative that emphasis be placed in improving William V.S. Tubman College of Technology in Cape Palmas as well as other technical institutions in the country. [applause] We must further indicate that when we suspended student activities on campus we in no way attempted to relinquish our concern for our brothers and sisters who are searching for a decent education. We tell them, as we see now, that the energies and resources of our young people could be directed more to development than to political activities. We trust they will understand our objectives and work along with us in building a more prosperous society. We note that when [word indistinct] campus was conceived little or no consideration was given to the poor students who would find it most inconvenient to commute on a daily basis. We understand that because of the current problems, many students have had to abandon their fields of interest or to quit the cadet jobs they had been depending on for subsistence. This is most unfortunate. Against the background of development and the expanding education opportunities for our young people, the council has already given the decision to provide $5.5 million in the 1982-1983 national budget for the construction of dormitories and providing for other facilities at the university's (?standard) campus. [applause] We are prepared to immediately award contracts to any party interested in beginning work on the site. Contractors are to immediately contact the Ministry of Public Works with their proposals which will receive our urgent attention.

Meanwhile, we are continuing to explore means whereby more buses can be provided to ease the transportation problems at the university. Fellow citizens, in every area of government operations, the needs of our people far exceed the scarce resources at our disposal. Our ability, thereof, to meet the rising expectations of our people is of paramount concern to us. In view of the critical nature of our problems, we were compelled last December to call on friendly governments to contribute about $2.5 billion to help us deal with the unfortunate circumstances in which we found ourselves. We are still awaiting responses from these sources. A [word indistinct] of this appeal will help us undertake the building of highways, improving electricity, establishing more technical schools and expanding agriculture. Given the excellent atmosphere we have created for bilateral and multilateral cooperation, we feel that all of those identifying with us will realize the urgency of achieving the goals we have set for the next 3 years. Immediately upon the advent of the revolution, many of Liberia's traditional friends appeared to have been acting cautiously, thereby giving themselves time to assess our political and economic directives. Understanding the necessity for this, we have done everything possible to reaffirm our commitment to the free enterprise system, but we have realized that massive infusion of capital is necessary to help our government achieve the goals it has set against the return to civilian government in 1985. We therefore indicated to friendly governments that we needed $2.5 billion to carry out our objectives. Of course, a nation, in the process of revolution cannot be unduly delayed and we are now positive that we cannot move ahead as rapidly as we desire without extending the scope of our friendship. All nations are seeking new friends and Liberia will certainly have to do the same to help speed up its development and progress.

While maintaining our commitments to our traditional friends, we will have to pursue these new avenues of financial help as the task of reconstruction is most urgent. You will recall, ladies and gentlemen, that in our Christmas message last December, we took a number of measures to revive our economy.

These include a reduction in the price of beer and stout, more than 50 percent reduction in transhipment fees of goods through Liberia and the removal of many checkpoints to eliminate harrassment of motorists. However, we observe that other factors appear to hamper total economic and commercial activities in Liberia. We note that our industrialization program designed to reduce our dependence on imported goods has not worked satisfactorily. As a result, we are still importing most of our essential commodities. It is important to mention that in order to provide added relief to our people, we will discontinue with whatever practice existed [words indistinct]. Instead, we will concentrate on expenditure control and improved tax collection. In this connection, we are launching a vigorous campaign against real estate and other tax delinquents. The Ministry of Finance is hereby directed to immediately provide the council with a complete list of all those in any way obligated to government. We will use every means to collect arrears including legal action. This also applies to those who have neglected paying their utility bills. You may remember, ladies and gentlemen, that we ordered an audit of the Executive Mansion a few months ago. This move was necessary in order to correct a number of irregularities in the receiving and disbursement of funds within the Ministry of State. We take credit that this was the first time in the history of this nation that such an exercise has been conducted. As a result of this, it has become evident that a more efficient system should be established there so that in the future, this office will operate upon strict accounting procedures. [applause] As a matter of national priority, we have authorized the continued auditing of the various government agencies to identify financial mismanagement, misappropriation of government funds and other malpractices. And more importantly, those employees found guilty of misappropriation will be turned over to the Justice Ministry for prosecution as was done with the director of the special security service and the chief accountant of the Executive Mansion. We are sure that such measures will close loopholes in our financial transactions. This, of course, will require an overhauling of the Bureau of General Auditing so as to facilitate improvement in the administration and the efficiency of staff.

We have already reintroduced the warrant system in the disbursement of government funds so as to establish effective control over expenditures. Also, as a means of raising additional funds to assist government in these critical times, the General Services Agency, GSA, is hereby authorized to sell all government's [word indistinct] equipment as well as vehicles that have been abandoned in various parts of the country. Fellow citizens, a tremendous amount of revenue is lost as a result of payroll padding. If this national crime is allowed to continue, millions of dollars of taxpayers' money will go down the drain.

We are therefore compelled to appoint a watchdog committee chaired by the vice head of state to study the situation without delay. He will recommend other members for my consideration. The committee will be assisted as needed by an independent auditing firm. The primary target of this group will be to examine the advantages of retaining the traditional system where each ministry submitted its payroll to the Ministry of Finance for manual check making. [applause]

As a further means of improving our financial situation through increased foreign investment, we are hereby appointing a committee to review [words indistinct] our investments incentive code chaired by the minister of commerce, industry and transportation. [applause] Other members are the chairman of the national investment commission, the minister of finance, the minister of justice, the director general of the Cabinet, the PRC adviser on economic affairs, an economics professor from the University of Liberia and a member of the chamber of commerce.

The committee will carefully examine our investment incentive code and make recommendations on how best we can guard against the disadvantage of monopolies. It will also ensure that the privileges afforded in the code are not abused, wrongfully applied or inefficiently imposed. At the same time, the government has been providing and will continue to provide protection to the new industries in their incentives with the hope that they will eventually become strong enough to withstand competition.

My fellow citizens, consistent with our commitment to constitutional rule, we have been giving every degree of support to the national constitutional commission charged with the drafting of this historic document. The process, of course, is designed to reflect the hopes and aspirations of the Liberian people. The commission has been (?successful) in its work: The comprehensive analysis of the suspended constitution, the comparative survey of other such documents and the formulation of proposals for the new constitution, a national dialogue which includes public discussion and debates designed to attract the input of the majority of the people and the drafting assembly upon the advice and consent of the council for critical review. [as heard] Thereafter, the constitution shall be referred to the Liberian people. We are pleased to mention that Phases I and II of the work have been completed and that the third and final stage is about to begin. Reflecting the realities of the cause of the Liberian people and nation and (?reasserting) the electoral constituencies of the country are primary objectives of the commission. As a means of facilitating the smooth transition to civilian rule, the commission notes the necessity to review and overhaul the political and electoral system the desire to prepare a well-researched draft constitution. Much emphasis will be placed on educating the citizens of their rights and duties under a democratic (?system), revising, updating and making functional the election machinery of the country. We realize, however, that the ever present questions of financial constraints may hamper the progress on this scheme. We must therefore, in this public manner, call upon friendly governments, national and international organizations and peoples of good will toward Liberia for financial assistance in this noble undertaking.

I should like to point out here that we received the 1981 annual report of all the ministries and autonomous agencies of government which contain a comprehensive analysis of activities as well as recommendations for further improvement in their respective areas. I should like to inform you that these recommendations have been forwarded to the council and the result will be communicated to each of you for implementation.

Fellow citizens, in spite of the many financial hardships through which we have gone, we can take consolation in the fact that we have maintained a nation of happy and healthy people. Our institutions of learning, our hospitals and clinics, government agencies and business houses are continuing to operate normally. We are contemplating housing projects for our men and women in arms. We are constructing a multipurpose sports complex and we are negotiating for the construction of the headquarters of our national police force. We have given instructions for the immediate renovation of the old nurses home near the maternity center in Bassa community. The minister of rural development is to undertake the project and complete it within 4 months and financing is to be provided by the National Redemption Day Commission. We recently signed an agreement to build a new maternity hospital in Monrovia. Today, we will be dedicating a 20-bed hospital in Mew Kru town, constructed by the National Redemption Day Commission. An annex at the present maternity center in Monrovia has been completed and a modern hospital in (Tabasa), Nimba County, is nearing completion. It is our hope that the new managing director of the National Housing Authority will see the need to launch housing projects that will adequately meet the needs of our rising population.

We are also pleased to announce that the National Bank of Liberia is issuing a $5 coin to commemorate the second anniversary of our popular revolution. [applause] We would, however, like to make it clear that the issuing of this new coin in no way represents the introduction of national currency by Liberia.

You will recall, fellow citizens, that in our last Christmas message, we expressed the view that Liberia was perhaps the only country in Africa or one of the few in the world without political prisoners. [applause] This does not mean that we are incapable of punishing those who violate the law or those who are in the constant habit of trying to divide our people but, as the true redeemers of our people, we want to demonstrate that we can run a country based on freedom, peace and stability. In the spirit of reconciliation, therefore, we hereby release from further detention Mr James Cooper who was arrested, who confessed himself and was confined to prison for 3 years. [applause]

Finally, fellow citizens, partners in progress and well-wishers: As we so happily enter the third year of our revolution, let us commit ourselves to the building of a strong, united people and prosperous nation. Let us join hands and hearts in unity and with (?strength) to make Liberia a truly happy home for all to cherish and enjoy. In the cause of the people, the struggle continues! [applause]

NIGERIA

REPORTAGE ON INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION MEETING

GDR, Cuban Resolutions

AB141533 Lagos NAN in English 1530 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Lagos, April 14 (NAN) -- The German Democratic Republic (GDR) group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union today in Lagos called on the United Nations Security Council to take urgent measures against South Africa's peace-breaking policy.

The German group made the call while presenting its draft resolution to the 69th inter-parliamentary conference committee on non-self-governing territories and ethnic questions. The group said that it opposed the misuse of the Namibian territory for acts of aggression against sovereign African states with particular reference to Angola, Zambia and Mozambique. It denounced the complicity of governments of certain Western and other states with the racist regime in South Africa in the nuclear field and called for a stop to such nuclear collaboration.

In its contribution, the Cuban group expressed concern at the colonial situation prevailing in Guam, East Timor, Gibraltar, the Falkland Islands, Puerto Rico and the so-called small territories under British and French domination. The Cuban group said that it deplored the growing collaboration of the United States of America, Israel and other Western powers with the South African regime. It demanded the release of freedom fighters like Nelson Mandela, and other South African political prisoners imprisoned for struggling for the rights of their people. The group, also called for the removal of foreign military bases in free and sovereign countries, against the will of their peoples.

About 15 groups have so far presented their draft resolutions to the committee since it started deliberations yesterday.

Havana Report

PA142030 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Cuba presented two draft resolutions at the 130th meeting of the IPU council, which began on Tuesday in Lagos, capital of Nigeria.

One of the documents emphasizes that the struggle to eradicate colonialism is not over since there are still problems that seriously threaten international peace and security. It cites the colonial examples of Puerto Rico, Guam, Micronesia, Western Sahara and Namibia.

After noting the need to adopt measures for the immediate and strict application of the UN plan for Namibia, the Cuban document charges that the colonialist policy of the South African regime has created one of the most dangerous trouble spots in the world. It also accuses the United States and its Western allies of supporting the racists of Pretoria. It urges the international community to urgently apply sanctions against South Africa and to offer cooperation to the South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO, in its national liberation struggle.

The document adds that the U.S. veto on the application of sanctions against South Africa shows who are the enemies of peace in the world.

The other document presented by Cuba to the IPU council calls for specific measures on behalf of disarmament and the reduction of military budgets. It adds that the United States and other Western countries have been systematically increasing their arms expenditures.

Jose Aranaburo, secretary of the National People's Assembly, who heads the Cuban delegation, said the struggle for peace and disarmament has priority importance and is mankind's most urgent task.

'Lobbying' Against Israel

AB141850 Lagos NAN in English 1800 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Lagos, Apr 14 (NAN) -- Arab countries attending the current Inter-Parliamentary Union meeting in Lagos today held a closed-door meeting to consider the possibilities of expelling Israel from the IPU.

According to informed sources, the countries asked a member of the Sudanese delegation, Mr Eze Eldin, who presided at the meeting to draft a motion to that effect for discussion at the current session. A source told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that the Arab delegates had been lobbying representatives from Indonesia, Bulgaria and Cuba for support.

However, the secretary-general of the IPU, Mr Pio-Carlo Terrenzio, told newsmen that no member country could demand the expulsion of another member. He explained that a member-state could only be expelled from the union if it failed to pay its annual dues or ceased to have a parliament.

Contacted on the moves by the Arab states, the chairman of the publicity committee of the Nigerian group of the IPU, Alhaji Tundun Wada, told NAN that "such moves have not come to our notice". He said that the role of Nigeria, as the host country, was to ensure that "tempers do not rise while the IPU meeting lasts."

Suspension of Ghana, Others

AB141905 Lagos NAN in English 1830 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Lagos, Apr 14 (NAN) -- The secretary general of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Mr Pio-Carlo Terrenzio, said today in Lagos that the executive committee of the union had recommended the suspension of three countries from the union.

The countries are Ghana, Guatemala and Bangladesh. Mr Terrenzio told national assembly correspondents that the recommendation followed the termination of civilian administration in those countries. He said that although representatives of the affected countries were attending the current meeting "they have no recognised status."

The secretary general said that the suspension of the countries was still subject to ratification by the inter-parliamentary council of the union scheduled to meet next Saturday.

Mr Terrenzio said that if eventually the three countries were suspended, they would be qualified for re-affiliation as soon as civil administration were re-introduced in their countries. The secretary general added that Togo, Rwanda and Cape Verde Islands had applied for re-affiliation with the union.

Seventy-seven countries are attending the one-week conference.

SENEGAL

14 APRIL TO MARK SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIANS

AB140945 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Excerpt] The Cabinet met this morning under the chairmanship of the head of state. On this occasion, President Abdou Diouf informed the Cabinet about a message addressed to him by His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud of Saudi Arabia and current chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization, concerning the situation in the occupied Arab territories following the profanation of the Al-Aqsa Mosque. In this connection, President Abdou Diouf reaffirmed the solidarity of the Senegalese people and Government with the martyred Palestinian people and expressed his strong disapproval of the exactions and acts of violence being committed by the Zionist Israeli authorities against the Palestinian people and in the occupied Arab territories.

Still in this connection, the government renewed its support for the Palestinian people led by their sole and authentic representative, the PLO, and decided that tomorrow should be observed as a holiday by the public services as a mark of solidarity with the Palestinian people.

ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL ARRIVES 12 APR

AB131645 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 12 Apr 82

[Text] Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, arrived in Dakar some 15 minutes ago on a 4-day official visit to Senegal. He was met on arrival at the Dakar-Yoff International Airport by the minister of state for justice and the keeper of the seal. He then made the following statement to the press:

[Begin recording] Since my appointment as secretary general of the Arab League, this trip, beginning with Senegal, is my first visit to Africa. And it is not by chance that Senegal is first among the numerous African countries that I have to visit this year. As a matter of fact, on the African scene, Senegal plays an important and dynamic role and it has always militated for the bringing closer together of the Arab and African communities, both under the leadership of President Senghor or today under that of President Abdou Diouf. And also, we cannot forget the very important role it has been playing within the UN commission for the rights of the Palestinian people. It is therefore natural that I should begin my African tour at Dakar. I have brought the greetings of all Arab nations and the Arab League to the people of Senegal (?for whom they have much respect).

[Question] We know Dakar is to host the forthcoming meeting of the 24. Can we know the countries participating in this meeting, and the topics to be discussed

[Answer] Well, the meeting will be double. In the first place, [words indistinct] and the first batch of questions to be examined bear on Arab-African cooperation, with the view to developing and strengthening this cooperation in all fields and on all fronts. The recent events in Israel made it necessary for the member states of the Arab League to call for this meeting to see if it can make any contribution to the evolution of the situation. And also, the PLO has demanded a special meeting of the UN General Assembly; but it did not ask for an extraordinary meeting of the league. And undoubtedly, this special session is to begin on 20 April and will last for 1 week. This will enable all peace and freedom-loving countries to express themselves and to defend the Palestinian people's interests.

[Question] What do you think about the recent events in Jerusalem?

[Answer] Surely, as governments, we deplore it and condemn this result of fanaticism perpetrated by Mr Begin and his acolytes; and when one is exposed to an extremist regime like the Israeli Government, evidently one cannot reap anything but storm.

[Question] Thank you. [end recording]

Visit 'Cut Short'

PA141313 Paris AFP in English 0415 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Dakar, 14 Apr (AFP) -- Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi cut short a visit to Senegal Tuesday night, his first to a non-Arab African country, because of the Middle East situation.

Leaving two days ahead of schedule, [words indistinct] leave for Beirut via Paris and then go on to Syria and Iraq.

He warned at a lunch hosted yesterday by Justice Minister Alioune Mbengue that Israel was preparing to annex the Jordan West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He said the Begin government's "cynical" actions could be explained by a "conviction that whatever the Zionist leaders do, certain Western states will [word indistinct] to the very end."

Mr Klibi said it was time that some countries with particular responsibilities in the situation made a distinction between "support for Israel and support for the bellicose expansionism of the Zionist state."

The league chief had talks with President Abdou Diouf and Premier Habib Thiam, who told him Senegal would observe a work stoppage on Wednesday as enjoined on Moslems everywhere by King Khalid of Saudi Arabia. He has asked for the work boycott as a sign of solidarity with Palestinians following Sunday's shooting incident in the Al Aqsa Mosque in east Jerusalem, where a Jewish soldier fired randomly into the crowd killing two Moslems. Senegal's population is 80 per-cent Moslem.

Mr Klibi also discussed Afro-Arab cooperation problems with President Diouf and the Prime minister. A committee of 12 Arab and 12 African countries is to meet here on April (?23) and 24 to review joint economic and other projects.

SIERRA LEONE

GENERAL ELECTION DATE CHANGED TO 1 MAY

AB140949 Freetown Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] An announcement from the office of the chief electoral commissioner says that all nominations for the 1982 general election will now take place in Freetown on Thursday, 15 April 1982, at the various centers [words indistinct] candidates from the various constituencies are advised in their own interest to cut the number of their (?nomination) and reduce them to the barest minimum.

As a result of the holding of the nominations on the 15th instead of 18 April 1982, polling for the election of the 59 members will be on Saturday, 1 May 1982.

UPPER VOLTA

SEVEN TRADE UNIONS CALL FOR 72-HOUR STRIKE

AB140942 Paris AFP in French 0750 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Ouagadougou, 14 Apr (AFP) -- Seven Upper Volta trade unions have given notice of a 72-hour general strike effective today, 14 April, to Friday inclusive, it was learned in Ouagadougou today.

The trade unions are asking the military government of Upper Volta to abrogate the 14 January ordinance regulating the right to strike, the restoration of the Voltan Trade Union Confederation [CSV] dissolved in November 1981 and the lifting of the warrant of arrest against the former secretary general of the CSV, Soumane Toure, who has been a wanted man since 1981 for possessing illegal documents which could compromise the internal security of Upper Volta.

The African Trade Union of the Volta Treasury, the Voltan Technicians and Workers Trade Union, the Trade Union of Teachers of Secondary and Higher Institutes of Learning, National Trade Union of Agricultures, the Treasury and Finance Workers Trade Union -- all affliated with the CSV before its dissolution in November 1981 -- signed the notice of strike.

This notice of strike calls on the people to support the "just struggle of the trade union against the overbearing military Committee of Redress for National Progress" [CMRNP] in power in Ouagadougou.

In their call to their militants, the seven trade unions state: "If Voltan workers submit to the CMRNP's antiworker tactics launched 5 months after the CMRNP's general offensive against the trade unions out of fear or due to opportunism, then that would be the end of trade unions and trade unionism in Upper Volta, the end of workers' basic rights dignity, the end of all our claims, the end of the fight on embezzlements and other scandals and the end of the democratic future of the Upper Voltan people."

"Even when our trade unions are dissolved, the struggle will continue," the signatories added.